THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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Czech Republic's Barbora Krejcikova celebrates after winning the French Open women's title on Saturday | AFP

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TWO GREATS PARRY IN PARIS, SET, MATCH & EVERY POINT

World No 1 Novak Djokovic beats Rafael Nadal 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-2 in one of the most exquisite semi-finals at French Open

DJOKOVIC 'ON TOP OF MOUNT EVEREST'

Nadal did lead the first set but by the time it was done, the Serb had got a solid opening into Friday's match. Forget who you support. The 90-minute third set is reserved for eternity where two of the sport's greatest pushed each other their limits. Djokovic's words aptly describes the match, "You have to kind of climb Mt Everest to win against this guy," he later said

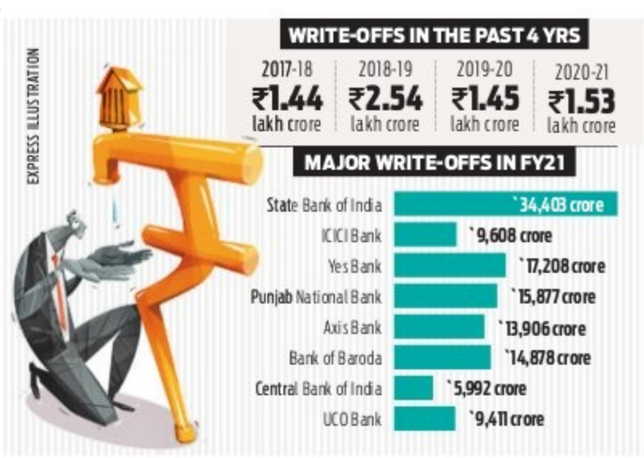
NEW CZECH-IN: WOMEN'S CHAMP BARBORA

- Barbora Krejcikova wins maiden Grand Slam title at French Open beating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-1, 2-6, 6-4
- The World No 33 becomes the first woman from Czech Republic to win a Grand Slam title in 40 years
- MEN'S FINAL: Djokovic vs Tsitsipas at 6.30pm (SUNDAY) | P11

18

NUMBER OF GRAND SLAM TITLES DJOKOVIC HAS WON

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI


EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION
WRITE-OFFS IN THE PAST 4 YRS
2017-18 ₹1.44 lakh crore
2018-19 ₹2.54 lakh crore
2019-20 ₹1.45 lakh crore
2020-21 ₹1.53 lakh crore
MAJOR WRITE-OFFS IN FY21
State Bank of India ₹34,403 crore
ICICI Bank ₹9,608 crore
Yes Bank ₹17,208 crore
Punjab National Bank ₹15,877 crore
Axis Bank ₹13,906 crore
Bank of Baroda ₹14,878 crore
Central Bank of India ₹5,992 crore
UCO Bank ₹9,411 crore

Banks write off ₹1.53L cr to make books look good

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

INDIAN banks wrote off loans worth ₹1.53 lakh crore in 2020-21 to show low non-performing assets (NPAs) in their books, an analysis of the numbers released by individual banks show. This is the second-highest amount being written off in a single financial year in the past decade. The highest write-off was in 2018-19 at ₹2.54 lakh crore.

What is worrisome is that loans that have remained bad for years have been erased from the balance sheet of banks at the stroke of a pen. Corporate houses are among the biggest defaulters.

Write-offs were high during Q4 of FY21 comprising 55.65% of total NPA written off in the year. Banks were sitting on ₹1.2-1.4 lakh crore worth unrecognised bad loans as of December 2020, which were identified after the Supreme Court lifted the ban on NPA classification.

Yes Bank saw the sharpest surge in write-offs at ₹17,208 crore in FY21, followed by PNB (₹15,877 crore), Bank of Baroda (₹14,878 crore), Axis Bank (₹13,906 crore), ICICI Bank (₹9,608 crore), and Central Bank (₹5,992 crore).

SBI wrote off ₹34,403 crore worth of bad loans in FY21, though it was lower than the previous year's ₹52,387 crore.

Meanwhile, Punjab & Sind Bank managed to reduce write-offs by an impressive 96% to ₹70.51 crore in FY21 from ₹1,781 crore a year ago.

Care Ratings' chief economist Madan Sabnavis said gross NPAs shot up 43.7% from ₹7.1 lakh crore in March 2017 to ₹10.2 lakh crore in March 2018. After FY18, the NPAs witnessed moderation and reached ₹8.9 lakh crore by March 2020 driven by write-offs and lower slippages. Over the last couple of years, public sector banks registered substantial contraction in their gross NPAs and they are expected to be around ₹6 lakh crore by March 2021.

No tax on black fungus medicine; levy on several Covid essentials slashed; vaccine to be continued to be taxed at 5%

GST Council offers Covid relief

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

THE GST Council on Saturday decided to maintain status quo on tax on Covid-19 vaccines, which will continue to be taxed at 5%.

However, the Council, which met via video-conferencing to discuss the recommendation by the Group of Ministers (GoM) on essential Covid supplies, slashed rates on medical grade oxygen, Covid testing kits, hand sanitiser and other items used in Covid-19 relief and management till September 30.

"Five per cent GST on vaccines continues. The Centre will buy 75% of vaccines as announced earlier and will also pay its GST. However, 70% of income from GST will be shared with states," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told media after the GST Council meet.

The FM explained that the existing 5% GST on vaccines will not be a burden on users as the Centre is paying for 75% of the vaccines which are given to citizens free of cost. However, those who go to private hospitals for vaccination will have to bear the cost of GST. The Council also removed the 5% tax on black fungus medicine Amphotericin B. Also, the rate on Covid drug Remdesivir has been lowered from 12% to 5%. The Council said more medicine will be added if it is recommended by the health department.

Sitharaman added that the tax cuts are valid till September 30 this year as against August-end recommended by the GoM. The timeline may be extended, if required.

However, the Council decided against cutting tax on RT-PCR machines, RNA extraction machines, and genome sequencing machines. These items currently attract 18% GST. In the last GST Council meeting the finance minister announced a GoM headed by Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Conrad Sangma to examine whether any GST concessions or exemptions should be given on Covid-relief items. The GoM gave its recommendations on Tuesday and after that a single agenda meeting was called.

RATES CUT

From 5% to 0%
- Tocilizumab
- Amphotericin B

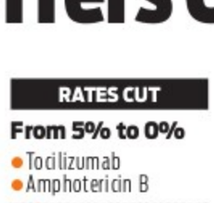
From 12% to 5%
- Anti-coagulants like Heparin
- Remdesivir
- Medical grade oxygen
- Oxygen concentrator
- Ventilator, ventilator mask / helmet
- BiPAP machine
- High flow nasal canula device
- Covid testing kits
- Pulse oximeters

From 18% to 5%
- Hand sanitizer
- Temperature check equipment
- Gas/ Electric/other furnaces for crematorium

From 28% to 12%
- Ambulances

The Centre is purchasing 75 pc and is paying GST also. But the impact of this GST on people will be nil since people would be getting vaccines free of cost at government hospitals. Centre is purchasing and it is given free to people

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister



Bommai's suggestion on GST accepted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HOME Minister **Basavraj Bommai**, who is deputing for Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in the GST Council, welcomed the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

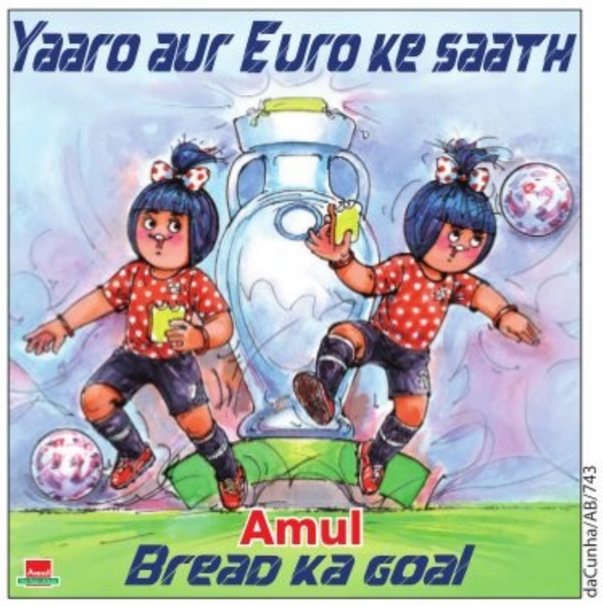
Bommai urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to consider reducing GST on temperature-checking equipment from 18 per cent to 5 percent, gas electric and other furnaces for cremation from 18 per cent to 5 per cent and ambulances from 28 per cent to 12 per cent.

Sitharaman agreed to these suggestions and the GST Council approved them.

The Council agreed to extend the GST concessions up to September 30, 2021.

Bommai also sought a meeting to discuss GST compensation-related issues beyond 2022, and Sitharaman said that the GST Council will meet shortly.

Bommai thanked Sitharaman and the Union Government for approving the GST compensation loan of Rs 18,109 crore for financial year 2021-22 to the state and said that this will help in Karnataka's fight against the Covid pandemic.



SAD eyes revival, BSP foothold with Punjab pact

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Thursday announced that they would contest the 2022 Punjab Assembly election as allies.

The alliance comes at a crucial time for both the parties, with the SAD seeking to regain lost ground amid backlash over sacrilege case and its initial support to the Centre's agri laws, and the BSP attempting to stay relevant on the national scene at a time it is facing existential crisis in its traditional stronghold, Uttar Pradesh, which also goes to the polls next year.

The announcement was made jointly by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and BSP national general secretary S C Mishra, with the former calling it a 'historic day' in Punjab politics.

Badal said the BSP will get 20 seats scattered across Malwa, Magha and Doaba regions, while SAD will contest from 97 in a house of 117. While announcing the decision, Mishra called upon the Dalits to support the alliance.

WITH THIS ISSUE
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF MANY KINDS
PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Expert panel to revamp edu system, says Suresh

RAMU PATIL @ Bengaluru

TO ensure quality education to children in the wake of the pandemic, the Education Department has constituted an expert committee to reform the education system. Primary and Secondary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said that there is a need for holistic thinking to improve the education system and not just focus on classes and examinations.

"The committee will look at all aspects to ensure good learning. It includes access to tech devices in rural areas and continuous assessment of students. The committee consists of experts from NIMHANS, child specialists, doctors and representatives from educational institutions. They will look at the future of education," he said. The process has already started and some meetings have also been held, he added. On the government's decision to hold SSLC examinations, he said there is a need to instil confidence among children and not create panic. He minister said that there is a need to take all precautions and also teach children about it.

FULL INTERVIEW: P3

KARNATAKA

LOGS 9,785 CASES IN 1 DAY

Active Covid-19 cases in Karnataka were less than two lakh on Saturday, even as the state reported 144 fatalities, taking the total caseload to 27.57 lakh and toll to 32,788 | P4

GETTING BACK ON TRACK

A day after the State Government announced a few relaxations in lockdown norms, passengers arrive at the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station, in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRES READ

Dominica HC denies bail to Choksi

New Delhi: The Dominica High Court has denied bail to fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi in the case of illegal entry into the Caribbean country after his mysterious disappearance from neighbouring Antigua and Barbuda, where he is staying as a citizen since 2018, local Caribbean media reported on saturday.

4 killed in terrorist firing in J&K

Srinagar: Two policemen posted for enforcing Covid restrictions and two civilians were killed on Saturday when Lashker-e-Taiba terrorists carried out a deadly strike in Sopore in North Kashmir, an incident which drew widespread condemnation from across the political spectrum.

Saffron touch? Proposed Sh'mogga airport terminal resembles lotus

MARX TEJASWI @ Shivamogga

IF you ever happen to fly over Shivamogga once the construction of the airport is completed at Sogane near the city, don't be surprised if the terminal building of the airport looks like a lotus, the party symbol of the BJP and India's national flower.

The architecture of this public utility building is significant as top leaders – Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, RSS chief Dattatreya Hosabale and BJP national general secretary BL Santhosh – are either from the district or have strong links with it. Yediyurappa's pocket borough is Shikaripur, Hosabale's place of origin is Soraba and Santhosh has worked in the district for a long time promoting RSS ideology. RDPR Minister KS Eshwarappa and former Assembly Speaker DH Shanakaramurthy, who is with the BJP, too are from the district.

When a 3D blueprint of the project was released in front of the chief minister during his inspection at Sogane on Saturday, the video gave a clear picture of the proposed state-of-the-art airport. However, an aerial view of the terminal building resembled a lotus.

Sampath, an executive engineer (special division) of PWD in Shivamogga, told *TNSE* that the design was unveiled for the first time on Saturday and it is almost finalised.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has promised it would be the second biggest airport after Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru. It is being constructed at an initial cost ₹384 crore.

An artist's impression of the aerial view of the Shivamogga airport terminal.

CONNECTIVITY WOES

Techies, students struggle with poor Net link

ASHWINI M SRIPAD & K SHIVA KUMAR @ Bengaluru, Mysuru

WORK from home and online classes could be an enjoyable and relaxed way of working and pursuing one's education. But it is not exactly a boon for everyone. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of professionals and students across the state who are struggling without internet and phone connectivity.

Every day at Varamballi in Hosanagara taluk of Shivamogga district, techie Sindhu N leaves her home carrying her laptop, a lightweight table and chair, and walks one kilometre to her farm where she works under a hut covered in a polythene sheet. This is her cubicle as this is the only place in the village where she gets some internet connection.

She leaves home at 9.15 am to reach her "work station" by 9.30 am. In the afternoon, she comes back home to charge her laptop and return to her hut. She does this six days a week.

Sindhu N at work on her laptop in the hut, in Varamballi | EXPRESS

Sindhu, a techie working with a private firm in Bengaluru, moved to her village in March 2020 when the first lockdown was announced. It has been more than 15 months and her struggle continues.

Initially, she travelled to her uncle's house in Hosanagara taluk which is 8 km away. There, too, she would get signals only intermittently. Later she started going to Sonale, where her brother stayed and which is some 5 km from her village. But when the Lockdown 2 was announced, she could not travel.

P3

CID unearths ₹290 cr Chinese app scandal

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

THE Cyber Crime Division of CID in Karnataka has busted a major money laundering scam involving over Rs 290 crore. The sleuths have arrested nine people, including four foreign nationals.

CID sleuths said the team received a complaint from RazorPay Software, alleging the accused were availing payment solutions from the company by saying they are running a business in gaming, social and e-commerce categories. They defrauded the company by deviating from their original category of business and started routing their financial transactions through a business entity named "Powerbank", an app listed on Google Play Store.

The app promoters promise a return of 5-10 per cent interest per month on the invested amount and even pay small amounts initially.

P5

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday: 13/06/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Thrutheeya 6.50 pm
Nakshatra: Punarvasu 4.58 pm • Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 24°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 5.53 am
Sunset 6.46 pm
Moonrise 8.05 am
Moonset 9.21 pm

02 BENGALURU SUNDAY 13.06.2021 newindianexpress.com

UNSUNG HEROINE IN THE WOODS

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru:

SHE is the first port of call for any health-related queries or demands of the tribal population living on the Karnataka-Kerala border, and a link between the healthcare system and people at the grassroots. Though Mysuru continues to see a huge spike in coronavirus cases, the efforts of a 32-year-old ASHA worker have kept three tribal hamlets – Goluru, Balle and Aanemala -- free from Covid-19 since its outbreak.

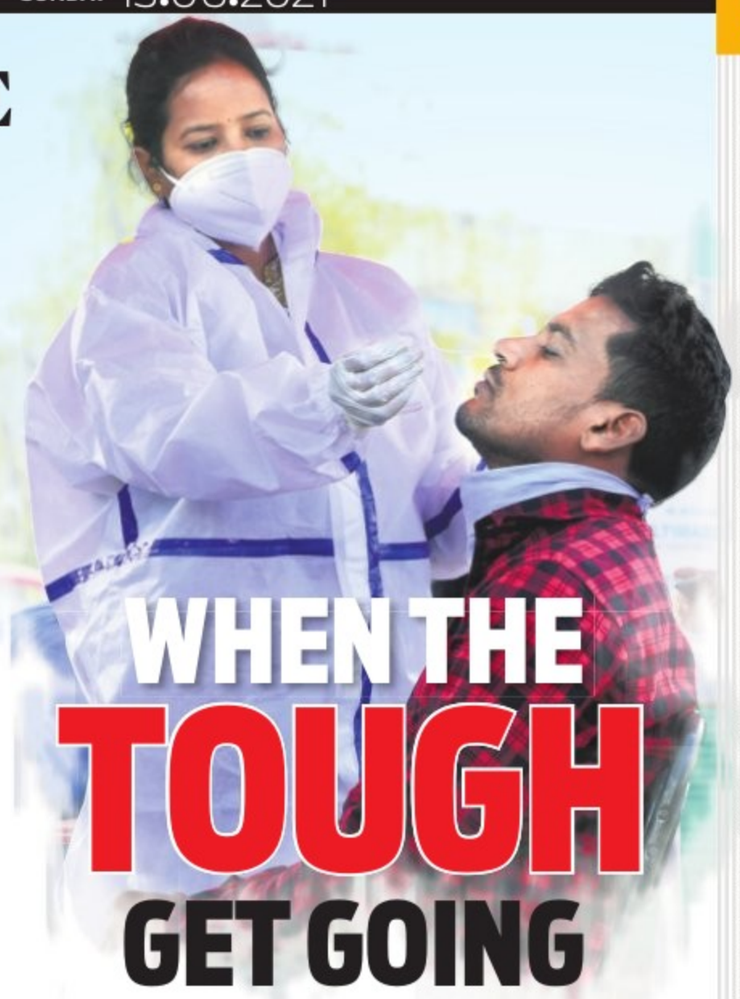
Meet Susheela from Goluru haadi (hamlet) in DB Kuppe village panchayat of HD Kote taluk in Mysuru. A mother of three, she leads her life in a tiny hut in Goluru and is yet to see electrification, but has turned a beacon of light for tribal families. She has worked tirelessly since the Covid outbreak, undeterred by her financial background and struggle to live in the woods. Susheela depends on 1 litre of kerosene which the government gives every month, to light lanterns so her children can study at night, but did not step back when called to the frontline in the war against the pandemic.

Undeterred

Susheela depends on 1 litre of kerosene which the government gives every month, to light lanterns so her children can study at night

Come rain or shine, Susheela walks 15-20km through the woods, encountering wild animals at times, to visit every hut and sensitise people about the virus, screen them and give any medical supplies they need. This accredited social health activist also hasn't forgotten her primary duty of checking the immunisation schedule of babies and health of pregnant women. She also promotes good health practices, and ensures basic sanitation and hygiene. Recently, Susheela stepped out at night to help a woman in labour, and arranged for an auto rickshaw to take her to an ambulance.

She walks for about 10km to the house of another ASHA worker in a neighbouring village to charge her cellphone, her link to those in need of critical help. Little wonder, she has turned 'Amma' to the people, and fondly called 'Susheelamma'.



WHEN THE TOUGH GET GOING

Corona warriors are emerging in every district of Karnataka, going silently about the tough tasks that the pandemic has thrown up. TNSE profiles a few more bravehearts this week

MULTI-TASKER ON THE FRONTLINE

PRAJNA GR @ Madikeri

BM Pushpavathi, an Anganwadi teacher from rural Kodagu, has donned multiple hats during the pandemic. Her job as school teacher might have taken a backseat, but her responsibilities have trebled, as she shuffles her roles as healthcare worker, inspector, motivator and nurse. "Anganwadis across the district shut their doors on March 14 last year. Since then, we are on the field, fighting the pandemic," said Pushpavathi. She is from Bettageri village in Madikeri taluk, and has so far visited 120 houses in the area to check on residents who have tested Covid-19 positive. "I, alongwith an ASHA worker and healthcare assistant, visit houses of patients in my area and ensure that they stay indoors for 14 days. We also ensure that no one enters containment zones. During the first wave of the pandemic, we faced a lot of hostility as our visit exposed residents who had tested positive. But we pushed through and created awareness among people to fight the infection," she explained. Her responsibility as Anganwadi worker also has to be fulfilled, and she follows up on the health of pregnant women and toddlers in her area. "Even during the pandemic, we did not shirk our responsibilities," she said proudly. "My job demands that I check the health of pregnant women and children aged 0-6 years. We have to ensure that pregnant women follow an ideal diet, and after delivery, we follow up on how they breastfeed babies. We create awareness on health." With online classes due to start soon for toddlers, she has kept ready materials that are to be shared with parents. "I am in charge of nearly 260 families in Bettageri area and our team walks up to estates to keep track of residents' health. However, not many know that Anganawadi teachers are involved in fighting Covid, and that sometimes makes me sad," she said. And all this warrior has got until now from the panchayat is free masks, and no special benefits.

Hearse driver is there to say final goodbyes to Covid victims

TUSHAR A MAJUKAR @ Belagavi

DEDICATED to his work, **Nisar Ahmed Abdulgani Samsher**, a driver of hearse van belonging to Belagavi City Corporation (BCC) has proved himself to be an outstanding Covid warrior by performing his work beyond his duties which can only be said for 'humanity'.

Working for the last 13 years with BCC, Samsher has been picking up dead bodies of several persons and taking them to the graveyard till date for performing their last rites. But after the Covid – 19 pandemic commenced, his profession was a big challenge for him, which he accepted heartily.

Speaking to 'The New Indian Express', Samsher said that on an average he used to pick as many as 40 to 50 dead bodies per month located within BCC limits. But, he said that during Covid pandemic, he has been picking up more than 70 to 80 dead bodies per month. And many of them have died due to Covid, he said. The most tragic thing that comes after Covid is the question in the minds of relatives of the deceased which asks - 'Who will perform the last rites of the Covid positive patient?', said Samsher. He said that he has seen several people refusing to receive the dead body of their relative because that deceased has died due to Covid.

Following the same Samsher started taking the responsibility to perform the last rites of those persons who have died due to Covid as his or her relatives are denying to perform the last rites due to the same. Several people have paid him the required amount to perform the last rites of the deceased, who has died due to Covid which amounts about Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 per body. He has even collected the ashes of the cremated dead body from the graveyard and handed it over to the relatives of the deceased at their door steps on their request.

Recalling an incident, Samsher said that an old woman died to Covid recently and she had no relative in Belagavi to perform her last rites. He said that there were two sons of the deceased who had died a couple of years ago and her only daughter was residing at Goa. "The daughter of the deceased called me on my mobile phone and requested to perform the last rites of her mother. Following the same I performed the last rites of the old woman and managed to send the ashes packed in a box to her daughter at her Goa address. The expenses for performing the mentioned last rites was donated by a social worker," he said.

Samsher is working from 6 am to 8 pm per day and during the ongoing Covid pandemic he has been working in a very hectic schedule. Due to the same, most of his senior officials attached to BCC have appreciated him and several organizations have felicitated him.

When speaking to TNIE, Samsher was carrying three orphan dead bodies to the Sadashiv Nagar graveyard and all of them had died due to Covid. Samsher said that he feels happy to help people and the profession into which he is, is the best way to help them. 'And for whatever good I do, there is a god to bless me, which is more than what earning matters to me,' he concluded.

Nalku Chakra -- The famous four save the day

RAMKRISHNA BADSESHI @Kalaburagi

CALLING themselves Nalku Chakra, four individuals in Kalaburagi city have been working tirelessly for the major part of last year to help people affected by Covid-19. They have distributed food and masks, created awareness about the disease, and helped police enforce lockdown.

Mala Dannur, Mala Kanni, Kalyan Rao Kanni and Maheshchandra Kanni put together a group of 25 people last April, when the lockdown was imposed. Each member of the group contributed Rs 10,000 then, says Mala Dannur.

Initially, participation was enthusiastic, but slowly the number of dedicated volunteers trickled down to six, including the Nalku Chakra. They helped the municipal administration tackle the pandemic, and aided police personnel attached to Chowk Police Station enforce the lockdown. They distributed food to Covid patients, and distributed 4,000 masks during the first wave.

When the second wave began to rear its head, they were back on the frontlines, Mala says. "Whenever we go to the wholesale market at Nehru Gunj to distribute food kits to hamals (daily wage labourers), we feel bad because they still don't wear masks and maintain physical distance due to their lack of awareness. At the same time, we feel angry when we see well-read people not wearing masks and not maintaining distance because they are neither bothered about their own health nor that of others," says Mala, adding that the Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike has recognised their services.

She says that when cases began cropping up in rural areas last year, they went along with police to convince the people to get admitted to Covid Care Centres. This time too, they visited around 150 poor people who tested positive and were under home isolation, providing meals and delivering medicine given by the government.

Mala Dannur and Mala Kanni are insurance agents with SBI Life Insurance, while Kalyan Rao Kanni and Maheshchandra Kanni are lecturers at Sharanabasava University. They say they are proud to serve people when they were in dire need of food and medicine

HEAD NURSE AT CHITRADURGA HOSPITAL A HIT AMONG PATIENTS

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

MALLANNA has been a one-stop solution for patients at the district hospital in Chitradurga since last year. Many people end up calling him for any health issues and he then points them in the right direction when it comes to doctors, and other needs. Mallanna has a long association with the hospital where he works as a head nurse. He born there and grew up around the hospital where his worked as a Group employee.

"The poverty and pain that patients' relatives face prompted me to take up a para-medical profession. As my parents did not have enough money for a medical course, I took up nursing which was affordable," Mallanna says.

Mallanna actually requested Covid duty. He takes a five-break after a 10-day Covid shift, and gets tested in between shifts. Over two months into the second wave, Mallanna says that the first wave was not as aggressive. "There were many deaths and it was painful. Many people couldn't get oxygenated beds for treatment. Covid-19 is the worst disease I've seen in 23 years as a nurse," Mallanna says.

Even though it was difficult, small victories kept him going. "Some of my patients were on ventilator for over a month, but got discharged from the hospital after being cured. It is satisfying to serve patients and I feel I am doing justice to the salary I draw," he says.

District Surgeon Dr Basavaraj says, "Mallanna is a source of inspiration for all hospital staff. He is the one-stop solution for all patients. He takes care of everything from admission to discharge, and helps out if families require ambulances and other services for a death."

TAKING CONTROL

On the road of service, woman cabbie ferries Covid patients

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

MEET Tulasi Lavakumar, the only woman cab driver who ferries Covid patients to hospitals.

Though she has a heart-wrenching story of her own, the 42-year-old, clad in a PPE suit, flashes a bright smile and comforts all those who take her cab.

She told *The New Sunday Express*, "It was nearly 12 years ago when my mother suddenly collapsed. While we were waiting for the ambulance that never came, she breathed her last. Though my mother was a single parent and had to care for four girl children, she ensured that we were brought up with dignity. We could not rush her to a hospital only because none of us knew how to drive. I wished I knew driving," she explained.

The opportunity came a few months later, when she saw an advertisement in a newspaper that the social welfare department in Banashankari was conducting free driving classes for women. Tulasi joined and was adept at driving in just a few days.

She later taught her husband and her 21-year-old son to drive. Soon after, her husband became a cab driver. He recently had to undergo an emergency open heart surgery. This time, however, she said, "I didn't have to wait for any ambulance or take anyone's help to attend to my husband. I drove him to hospital in our own car and saved his life."

I didn't have to wait for any ambulance or take anyone's help to attend to my husband. I drove him to hospital in our own car and saved his life
Tulasi Lavakumar

Tulasi Lavakumar, in the safety of a PPE suit, at the wheel of her cab | EXPRESS

With her husband's health, the financial condition of the family went bad. Though Tulasi is also a karate trainer, she could not earn enough to make ends meet. She saw that hundreds of people wanted cab services to ferry Covid patients, but no one was willing because of the fear of infection. She registered her husband's car with Cabto and started making trips.

It has been 20 days since she started and she says, "I learn one new lesson of life with every person I ferry in my cab. I have been addressed as akka (sister), thayi (mother), thangi (younger sister), amma (mother) and I can't tell you the amount of blessings I have been showered with."

She gets Rs 600 per trip and says she is ready like a soldier whenever she gets a call. Despite her average earnings, she and her sisters have distributed food to the needy at different places.

'Onus on citizens to keep Covid in check'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS the unlock period is starting, the onus of ensuring that the number of Covid cases and positivity rate do not rise is now on the citizens, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner **Gaurav Gupta** said on Saturday.

He said the testing will be intensified and made more aggressive. Testing will now be held at bus and railway stations also. Contact tracing will also be increased. "Citizens must ensure that they get themselves tested if they have any symptoms, avoid any sort of gathering, follow Covid-appropriate behaviour, wear a mask and take the vaccine," Gupta said. He was speaking on the sidelines of the inspection of the ongoing work at Shivananda Circle Steel Flyover.

He also stated that on Friday, in just one day, one lakh people were vaccinated. The target to vaccinate 30 lakh people in 30 days is still on. Vaccination is being done based on the availability of people, and so far, 50 per cent of those aged above 45 years of age have been vaccinated with their second dose. A 360-degree vaccination drive is being carried out to vaccinate as many people as possible. Also, so far, two lakh people under the listed 15 priority groups have been vaccinated. The new guidelines for the 18-plus age group is awaited to extend the exercise.

He added that some offices are seeking that urgent vaccination drives be held, so that operations can resume; they can contact private hospitals too, as the latter have been directed to continue with the drive.

BBMP chief takes stock of flyover work

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta inspected the Shivananda Circle steel flyover and said a 493-meter long overpass is being constructed at the circle. It is supported by 16 pillars, of which 15 have already been completed. The 450 mm water pipeline located in front of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce from the Water Board has been shifted elsewhere. The pillar work had not been completed due to a 700 mm water pipeline that needed to be shifted. Now, the pipeline has been replaced and the pillar work is in progress.

Up close with birds, walk-in aviary to open in a month

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a move to draw more tourists to the Scotland of Karnataka, the Forest Department and local administration have created a walk-in exotic bird aviary in Kodagu.

Though it was inaugurated by Housing Minister V Sommanna on Friday, it will be opened to the public only after a month.

The aviary has been created in Cauvery Nisargadhama, where a dedicated area of around 2,000 sqft for an enclosure has been created. Visitors can walk in and feed the birds.

The walk-in aviary created at Cauvery Nisargadhama, Kodagu district | EXPRESS

Shivaram Babu, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Kodagu told *The New Sunday Express* that a metal structure has been erected with mesh so that people and birds are not inconvenienced.

The list of birds being procured to be housed include, budgies, African lovebirds, cockatiel, Conure varieties, African grey parrot, macaw, pheasant, turkeys, geese and ducks. A Koi fish pond and fish spa, housing Gurra rufa (doctor fish), is also being created, he said.

The concept is very popular in foreign countries, especially the island nations.

Some conservationists and activists have questioned the need for such a project in Kodagu.

"The area is known for its lush green forest patches, vegetation, biodiversity and wildlife. There is no need to bring in exotic birds and have such an aviary. Instead, a bird-watching site can be created," an activist said.

LET'S INSTILL CONFIDENCE, NOT FEAR, IN CHILDREN: EDU MINISTER

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

JUSTIFYING the decision to conduct SSLC examinations while cancelling PU exams, Primary Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said it was done after consulting all stakeholders and it is in the best interest of students. "We have to instill confidence among children and not create panic. This is one such effort to make them more confident," he said. Excerpts from an interview"

Why is it so important to hold SSLC examinations when PU II and other examinations are cancelled?

We have a no-detention policy and last year, we did not conduct the Class 9 examinations because of the pandemic. All students were promoted to Class 10. The students have to decide what they want to pursue - Science, Arts or Commerce - in PUC and they should have the confidence to make a choice. If we had any other basis to assess them, we would not have decided to hold the examinations. It is not correct to compare us with the CBSE, as they have a system to evaluate children periodically. We do not have such a system. We are thinking of introducing it from this year. We took this decision after holding extensive discussions with former education ministers, MLCs, teaching faculty and parents. Ultimately, the department's decision may not make everyone happy in the present situation, but we have taken the right decision in the best interest of students.

The Opposition Congress and the JDS say the government should apply the same logic for both PUC and SSLC exams?

I have spoken to (Congress leaders) Siddaramaiah, D K Shivakumar and former education ministers. The PUC II results will be determined based on SSLC and PU I scores. The PU II students also write CET, NEET, JEE and other entrance examinations. But SSLC students have no such entrance exams. We have decided to have the most simple two-day objective type examination for SSLC. On one day, it will be core subjects and the next day, languages. We have also released a model question paper and BEO-level training has started. No student will be failed. We have to instill confidence in them and not create panic. This is one such effort to make them more confident.

The PUC II results will be determined based on SSLC and PU I scores. The PU II students also write CET, NEET, JEE and other entrance examinations

S Suresh Kumar, Minister

Compared to last year, when the SSLC examinations were conducted, the situation is more grave this time and experts are also talking about a third wave. What are the challenges?

We have consulted experts before taking the decision. We are not holding the examinations now and it will be done in July third week. Now, Covid cases are coming down and we are taking improvised SOP from the Health Department. Children are more disciplined in following the SOPs than the elders. We have made it very clear that we will hold the examinations once the situation comes under control. We will decide, depending on the situation. This time, we have to increase the number of centres, from 3,000 to nearly 6,000. The number of supervisors will increase. Last time, around 18 children sat in a normal room and this time it will be around 10 to 12 and one student per desk will ensure six feet distance. We have also decided to give N95 masks to them and also appoint invigilators who are vaccinated.

Since children are not vaccinated, what are the challenges in starting the academic year and reopening educational institutions?

Vaccines for children are still under clinical trials. We have decided to start the academic year from July 1 and we will reschedule it depending on the situation.

Several teachers deputed to bypoll duty succumbed to Covid-19. How is the government helping their families?

We have written to the Election Commission to consider all such teachers as Covid warriors and give compensation to their families. Apart from that, teachers who were deputed on Covid-19 duty should also be considered as Covid warriors. It is being taken up at Chief Secretary and Health Secretary level.

Since educational institutions are closed, there is concern over the increasing number of children dropping out of schools. What is being done to address it?

This concern was there last time also. I had stated several times that child labour and child marriage have increased. We are concerned about these issues. At the same time, it is dangerous to reopen schools. Ultimately, it is the Education Department's responsibility to ensure that not a single child is deprived of education. That is our mission.

All our children are not in a position to take online education as there is no network at many places. I had visited many villages in Chamarajnagar and noted that BA and BSc students do not have network. Parents are not in a position to afford devices for their children. Even if they have one device, it will be with the parents and children will be able to use it only after parents return home. We have formed a committee to look into the next academic year in this background. Experts from NIMHANS are part of the committee that will take a holistic view.

Has the department finalized the criteria for announcing PU II results?

A five-member committee has been formed, including NCERT and CBSE, to review the formula. First, we wanted to take only the PUC I result. But later, there was a suggestion to include SSLC marks as well.

The committee will decide what weightage has to be given to SSLC and PUC I marks.

K'taka eyes slot in Union Cabinet rejig

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

WITH the buzz around a reshuffle of the Union Cabinet after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a flurry of meetings over the last two days, speculation is rife that a BJP MP from Karnataka may be inducted. While the names of two BJP MPs from the Lingayat community are doing rounds, senior party leaders said the induction of a non-Lingayat MP cannot be ruled out.

On Friday, Modi held meetings with BJP national president J P Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah and others. Modi is also meeting Union Ministers in batches over the last few days, giving rise to speculation about a rejig. Of the 28 MPs from Karnataka, 25 are from BJP. After the death of Union MoS for Railways, Suresh Angadi, his wife Mangala won the bypoll in Belagavi.

The names of four-time MP from Bagalkot, P C Gaddigoudar, and three-time MP from Haveri-Gadag, Shivakumar C Udasi, are currently doing the rounds. Both leaders are from the Lingayat community. Angadi was also a Lingayat. Coincidentally, Gaddigoudar is in Delhi now. He said he is ready to take up any post given by party leaders. "I have not approached them, neither have they approached me," he said.

Since Gaddigoudar is senior to Udasi, he stands a better chance, sources indicated. However, another senior BJP leader said it would be no surprise if the central leadership chooses a non-Lingayat MP as Union Minister considering that CM B S Yediyurappa too is from the same community.

Speaking to TNSE, Union Minister D V Sadananda Gowda said that in 2014, four MPs from Karnataka were inducted into the Cabinet - himself, H N Ananth Kumar, G M Siddeshwar and Venkiah Naidu (Rajya Sabha Member). In 2019, he, along with Pralhad Joshi, Nirmala Seetharaman and Angadi were inducted. "We are hoping they will induct one from Karnataka this time too," he added.

Another Union Minister from Karnataka, Pralhad Joshi, said when and whom to induct will be decided by Modi and Nadda.

In Delhi, MLA Bellad claims visit was private

Bengaluru: Amid talk of a reshuffle in the Union Cabinet, Dharwad-west MLA Arvind Bellad was in New Delhi on Saturday, sparking off speculation, but he insisted that it was a private visit. Speaking to the media, he said he was not in Delhi to meet the central leaders or in connection with any political developments. Reports in the electronic media that were aired on Saturday morning about the purpose of his visit were not true, he said. Bellad had recently complained to the BJP central Leadership about the proposed sale of government land to JSW Jindal Steel. MLA C P Yogeeshwara, who had accompanied Bellad to Delhi on an earlier visit, too had cried foul about interference in the government. Party general secretary in charge of Karnataka, Arun Singh, is expected to arrive in Bengaluru on Wednesday and hold a series of meetings over three days. ENS

IN HINTERLAND

Connectivity a big issue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"One day, during my morning walk, I noticed some signal near our farm and my father constructed the hut," Sindhu said.But with the monsoon setting in, there is a new problem as the hut cannot ward off heavy rain. "My colleagues are cooperative. But I cannot keep giving them excuses not to work," she said. Vinayak Prabhu, a BCom graduate from the village, had sent letters to the PMO and CMO in 2017. Instructions to officials followed, but the situation did not improve.

People in villages along the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar too go through a similar struggle. "We just have a 2G network and have to take the bike and go till Nala Road where we get good network and work from there. A few of them have taken rooms on rent near the locality," said Rajendra, a BPO employee who has returned to Hoogyam.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notices hereby given to the general public that the property described in the Schedule hereunder is being sold by **ALPHA WELDING AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PVT. LTD.,** to our client. All persons having any claim in respect thereof, by way of sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, change, trust, inheritance, position, lease, lien or otherwise whatsoever are requested to inform to the under signed within seven days of the notice failing which, the claim or claims if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have a been waived and / abandoned and the transfer shall be completed.

SCHEDULE TO THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of land known as Plot No. Q-10 Industrial Estate at Veerasandra 2nd Stage, Bangalore, situated in Sy. No. 29 at Chikkanagamangala Village, Annekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, standing on a plot of land measuring North to South 26.00 meters and East to West 21.00 Meters overall measuring 546.00 Sq. Mtrs. along with a Build up area of 11,120 Sq. Ft, bearing Katha No. 1502001005006243039

On the East : Plot No. Q-11, On the West : Plot No. Q-9, On the North : Plot No. R-10, On the South : Road.

Sd/- N.K. Law Associates,
V.J. Narayan Kumar, Advocate,
Diamond District Apartment, Kodihalli,
Bangalore - 560008. Mob : 9845077688

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Bank of India

Bengaluru Zone: #11, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-09 Tel: 080-2295 9407/08, Fax: 080-22289054

E-AUCTION SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Bank Of India,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** on **15-07-2021,** for recovery of **Rs. 61,62,173/-** (Sixty One Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Seventy Three Only) + interest **@ 8.70% p.a.** compounded with monthly rests from 31-10-2019 for Housing Loan and other charges due to BANK OF INDIA, MALLESHWARAM BRANCH from Mr.Gavin Adrian Brown (Borrower), Mrs. Shwetha Santhosh (Guarantor). The reserve price, EMD amount and Property details are as mentioned hereunder:

Reserve Price: Rs.68,00,000 /- (Rupees Sixty Eight lakhs Only)
EMD : Rs.6,80,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only)

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS: Equitable mortgage of all the piece and parcel of the immovable Plot Residential property, Site situated at Site No. 37/15, Assessment No. 37/15, Katha No. 2570/1085/37/15, Old BBMP No. 1085/37/15, Volagerahalli Village, KengeriHobli, Bangalore-560059, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 40 ft, admeasuring 1600 sq. ft., owned by Mr. Gavin Adrian Brown and bounded on: East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Remaining Portion of the same property, South by : Road.

To the best knowledge and information available with the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property referred above. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the property and to inspect & satisfy them.

The auction will be online E-Auction Sale/Bidding and shall be done only through "Online Electronic Bidding" process through the website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.** For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://www.bankofindia.co.in/tenders.**

The Authorised Officer has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason.

Date & Time of E-auction: **15-07-2021 between 11.00am to 05.00pm** (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded).

Date : 12.06.2021 — Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Bengaluru — Bank of India

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Retail Assets Central Processing Centre-II, KORAMANGALA
No.12, 7th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala
Bengaluru-560034, Tel:080-25943803, Fax:080-25943805
Email: maintracpc2.ban@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Under Rule 8(1) (For Immovable Properties)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (No.3 of 2002) issued Demand Notices calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest/cost etc within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice. Details of demand notices such as date of issue and loan outstanding amount are mentioned against each borrower hereunder.

1. **Name of the Borrowers** : **Sri.Ramesh Babu Mylapilli** S/o. Upenararao Mylapilli
Demand Notice date : 17.02.2021 **A/c 40877/HL/0086/38711467954**
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice : Rs. 57,50,618/- (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakhs Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen only) as on 15.02.2021 and future interest from 16.02.2021 + incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.
Possession Taken date : 09.06.2021
Loan Outstanding amount : Rs.58,88,176/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six only) as on 04.06.2021 + interest and expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property: Schedule property A: (1) Sy.No.13/1 – Extent of 1 Acre 32 Guntas, Conveted to non-agricultural vide conversion order No.ALN(A.J)S.R/217/2011-12 date 21/04/2012, (2) Sy.No.13/2-Extent of 3 Acre 16 Guntas, converted to non-agricultural vide conversion order No.ALN(A.J)S.R/219/2011-12 date 21/04/2012, (3) Sy.No.73-Extent of 3 Acre 36 Guntas, Converted to non-agricultural vide conversion order No.ALN(AJ)SR/220/2011-12 date 21/04/2012, and (4) Sy.No.14/5- Extent of 2 Acre 05 Guntas, Converted to non-agricultural vide conversion order No.ALN(AJ)94/2012-13 date 11/09/2012 AND No.ALN(AJ)SR/216/2011-12 Dt.30/03/2012 Totally measuring 11 Acres & 9 Guntas, situated at Konasandra and Vaderamanchanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluq, Bengaluru District. (Layout Plan Approved by ANEKAL PLANNING AUTHORITY (APA) No.APA/LAO/152/2012-13 Dt.21/04/2014 and Acknowledged by RERA Via No.PR/KN/170824/001400 and bounded by:
Survey No.13/1 Bounded on by: East by: Sy.No.13/2, **West by:**Sy.No.12, Sy.No.11/1, Sy.No.11/2, **North by:** Remaining Portion of Sy.No.13/1,**South by**:Sy.No.73
Survey No.13/2 Bounded on by: East by: Remaing Portion of Sy No.13/2 (16 Guntas) & Sy.No.14, **West by:** Sy.No.13/1, **North by:**Road, **South by:** Sy.No.73.
Survey No.73 Bounded on by: East by : Property of Sreerama Reddy Sy.No.74,**West by:** Land bearing Sy.No.71 & 72, **North by:** Land bearing Sy.No.13/1, 13/2 and 14/5, **South by:**Land bearing Sy.No.71.
Survey No.14/5 Bounded on by: East by: Land bearing Sy.No.15 Muniyappa,**West by:** Land bearing Sy.No.13/2,**North by:** Land bearing Sy.No.14/4,**South by:** Land bearing Sy.No.73 of Gowramma.
Schedule B (Property conveyed under this Sale Deed): All that piece and parcel of the site property Site No.53 bearing Katha No.251/53 and PID No.150200100401320201 carved out of Sy.No.13/1 – Extent of 1 Acre 32 Guntas, Converted to non-agricultural vide conversion order No.ALN(AJ)S.R/217/2011-12 date 21/04/2012, and Sy.No.13/2 – Extent of 3 Acre 16 Guntas, Converted to non-agricultural vide conversion order No.ALN(AJ)S.R/219/2011-12 date 21/04/2012, situated at Vadermanchanahalli Village, JiganiHobli, AnekalTaluk, Bengaluru District, Which is part of BMRDA Approved Layout in "**S2 Homes- Butterfly Gardens**" formed out of the property mentioned in the Schedule A Totally measuring : 278.62 Square Meter (equivalent to 2999 Square feet) and bounded on by: Site No.53 is standing in the name of Sri.Ramesh Babu Mylapilli S/o. Upendra Rao Mylapilli and bounded on by: East by: Road, West by: Compound Wall, North by: Site No.52 and South by: Road.

2. **Name of the Borrower : Smt. Shreya Das Saha** W/o. Subhasis Saha & **Sri. Subhasis Saha** S/o. Nitish Saha.
Demand Notice date :17.02.2021 **A/c.No.12706/HL/959/TL 36105907638**
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice : Rs. 37,18,546/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred and Forty Six only) as on 15.02.2021 and you are also liable to pay future interest from 16.02.2021 and expenses thereon
Possession Taken date : 09.06.2021
Loan Outstanding amount : Rs.37,99,417/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Seventeen only) as on 04.06.2021 and you are also liable to pay future interest from 05.06.2021 and expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property: Schedule 'A' Property (Entire Property): All that piece and parcel of the Converted land measuring 28,466 Sq.ft, in Sy.No.191/1, situated at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, (Converted from Agricultural to Non-Agricultural/ Residential purposes vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN (A.S) SR 238/2007-08, dated 03.11.2008, issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bengaluru District,) presently coming within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru) B.B.M.P Katha No.32/191/1 and bounded on East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Portion of Property given for J.D.A in Sy.No.191/1 and South by: Site bearing No.191/2.
Schedule 'B' Property : **(Property hereby sold to the PURCHASERS)** An undivided share, right, title, interest in the Schedule-A Property i.e.614 sq.ft
Schedule –'C' Property: **(Description of the Flat hereby conveyed):** Apartment/Flat bearing Flat No.004, in the Ground Floor of the Residential Apartment known as " SPRING LEAF" having a super built up area of 1475 Square Feet, containing three Bed Rooms House together with One Covered Car Parking Space in the basement and the said Flat is having a Vitrified Flooring, Standing in the joint names of Smt. Shreya Das Saha & Sri. Subhasis Saha and bounded on East by: Open Sky and thereafter Flat no.003, West by: Open to Sky and thereafter Flat No.005, North by: Open to Sky and South by: Private Property.

3. **Name of the Borrower : Smt.Madamma** W/o. Sri.T.Thirunathan and **Sri.T.Thirunathan** S/o.M.Thurthan
Demand Notice date :11.02.2021 A/c.No. 50922/HL/79,80, A/c.Nos. 65261939776 / 65200812058
Loan Outstanding amount as per demand notice : Rs. 10,59,075/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Seventy Five only) as on 07.02.2021 and future interest from 08.02.2021 and expenses thereon
Possession Taken date : 09.06.2021
Loan Outstanding amount : Rs.10,79,018/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Eighteen only) as on 04.06.2021+ interest and expenses thereon.
Description of the immovable property: 1. All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Western portion of residential vacant Site No.35, formed out of Property No.22/1, Katha No.22/1, situated at Parappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, presently comes under Bruhuth Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Limits, standing in the name of Smt.Madamma W/o. Sri.T.Thirunathan measuring East to West :33 feet, and North to South : 23 feet, in all measuring 759 sq. ft, with structure theiron and bounded on : East by : Remaining portion of same Site No.35, West by : Ashwath Reddy Property, North by : Site No.36, South by : Site No.34.
2. All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.35, Katha No.22/1, situated at Parappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, standing in the name of . Sri.T.Thirunathan S/o.M.Thirtan, measuring East to West :20 feet, and North to South : 30 feet and bounded on : East by : Road, West by : Remaining Portion of the same Property, North by : Site No.36, South by : Site No.34.

The above mentioend borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on above mentioned date.
The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India** for amount mentioned against their names with further interest accrued and cost/ expenses thereon.
The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date :09.06.2021
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,
RACPC-II, Koramangala, Bengaluru

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

e-TENDER NOTICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF STORES No.E-26/2021

Firms are requested to Login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in-ogin>E.Tendergoods & services (new)** and quote against these tenders. Manual quotations will not be entertained for these tenders. **Closing time for all tenders 14:30 hours.**

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Due Date
1	04210022	Hopper window for LHB coaches	15-JUN-2021
2	44211055	Distributor Valve	16-JUN-2021
3	26211092	Kit for EP Relay valve	17-JUN-2021
4	01210020	Paint signal red	17-JUN-2021
5	26213478	Arrangement totransition screw coupling	17-JUN-2021
6	26213406	High capacity Locomotives side buffer	17-JUN-2021
7	04210083	Hexagonal head screw M 1.6x1.5x50mm	18-JUN-2021
8	26212203	Equaliser beam for WAG-7	18-JUN-2021
9	26210904	3 Sq.mm/750 volts single core	18-JUN-2021
10	40215001A	Liquid medical oxygen	18-JUN-2021
11	11215002	Supply, Erection of stand	18-JUN-2021
12	06215019A	Extra corporeal Membrane oxygenator	18-JUN-2021
13	26210897A	240 Sq. mm/1500 volts single core	21-JUN-2021
14	01210015	Paint Golden yellow	21-JUN-2021
15	04210910	Injection moulded polyacetal	22-JUN-2021
16	44210369	Distributor valve complete	22-JUN-2021
17	26210032	Bonded rubber sandwich mounting unit	22-JUN-2021
18	26212616	POH Replacement Kit and AOH	22-JUN-2021
19	44210583	Shoe 30 degree for RF-361 draft gear	22-JUN-2021
20	44210545A	Flap door arrangement	22-JUN-2021
21	04210456	Two piece glass shutter	28-JUN-2021
22	21210848	Air brake hose coupling for brake pipe	29-JUN-2021
23	11200083A	'V' Groove axle pulley suitable for 16.25	29-JUN-2021
24	04210921A	Kit for brake gear bushes	01-JUL-2021
25	11210376A	Dynamically balanced 4 'V'	01-JUL-2021
26	26211103	Set of wiper arm complete LH & RH	01-JUL-2021
27	44210446	Bogie centre pivot bottom for CASNUB	01-JUL-2021
28	26211161	Gasket overhauling kit for MOH-2	02-JUL-2021
29	26213458	Thin walled electron beam irradiated	05-JUL-2021
30	04210969B	Secondary vertical damper	05-JUL-2021

Principal Chief Materials Manager

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CIN:U65990MH2010PTC240703,
Website: homefirstindia.com, Phone No.: 180030008425
Email ID: loanfirst@homefirstindia.com

POSSESSION NOTICE

REF: POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE 8 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORECEMENT) RULES, 2002

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED,** pursuant to demand notice issued on its respective dates as given below, under section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 calling upon you/Borrowers, the under named to pay outstanding dues as within 60 days from the date of receipt of respective notices. You/Borrowers all, however, have failed to pay the said outstanding dues within stipulated time, hence **HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED** are in exercise and having right as conferred under the provision of sub section (4) of section 13 of SARFAESI ACT,2002 read with rules thereunder, taken **POSSESSION** of the secured assets as mentioned herein below:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrowers/ CoBorrowers/ Guarantors	Description of Mortgaged Property	Date of Demand Notice Sent	Total Outstanding as on date of demand notice (in Rs.)	Date of Possession
1	Tharakalakshmi T 1, Ramesh Babu	House No. 206/3, Survey No 206/3, Old Survey No.206, Yamare Village, Sarjapura Hubli, Anekal Taluk Bangalore Karnataka 562125	01-04-2021	22,96,161	11-06-2021
2	V Chandrashekar, Gouthami C, SHANTHAMMA C	No.2465, Property bearing Muncipal khatha No 2465/2055/1809/1404/B Melinapete and B1 Doddatigalarapete Near Dharmaraya Temple Hosakote Bangalore rural Bangalore Karnataka 562114	05-04-2021	24,44,734	11-06-2021

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower / Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on the date mentioned above.

The **BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS** and the **PUBLIC IN GENERAL** are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above referred Properties/Secured Assets or any part thereof and any dealing with the said Properties/Secured Assets shall be subject to charge of HOME FIRST FINANCE COMPANY INDIA LIMITED for the amount mentioned hereinabove against Properties/Secured Assets which is **payable with the further interest thereon until payment in full.**

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Place: Bangalore Date: 13/06/2021 — Authorised Officer : Home First Finance Company India Limited

QuoteExpress — DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING › SAM LEVENSON

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

9,785 CASES REPORTED TODAY

8,249 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY 27,57,324

YESTERDAY 27,47,539

DEATHS

TODAY 144 | YESTERDAY 159

DISCHARGES

TODAY 21,614 | YESTERDAY 14,975

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY 1,91,796 | YESTERDAY 2,03,769

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY 8.76%

YESTERDAY 8.76%

The day positivity rate – 6.61% is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY 1.18%

YESTERDAY 1.18%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY 91.84%

YESTERDAY 91.39%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until June 12, 2021, a total of 27,57,324 cases have been reported in 1 year and 93 days...

1,67,13,328 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	29,94,425
Health care workers 1st dose	7,34,189
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,80,688
Frontline workers 1st dose	6,83,020
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,24,640
Age 18-45 1st dose	28,64,524
Age 18-45 2nd dose	9,628
Above 45 1st dose	94,37,170
Above 45 2nd dose	22,79,469

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

2,454 BENGALURU URBAN

242 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot: 70	Chamarajanagar: 176	Dakshina Kannada: 618	Hassan: 624	Kolar: 193	Raichur: 59	Udupi: 263
Ballari: 337	Chikkaballapur: 273	Davanagere: 372	Haveri: 65	Koppal: 127	Ramanagara: 32	Uttara Kannada: 229
Belagavi: 443	Chikkamagaluru: 342	Dharwad: 212	Kalaburagi: 60	Mandya: 320	Shivamogga: 715	Vijayapura: 188
Bidar: 30	Chitradurga: 156	Gadag: 60	Kodagu: 194	Mysuru: 482	Tumakuru: 440	Yadgir: 9

Host of hurdles on road to unlock ahead of 3rd wave

TEAM TNIE

THE unlocking in a phased manner from June 14 may be the preferred way to gradually get back to normal living. But it has thrown up major challenges to keeping focus on the larger objective - that of avoiding a deadlier third wave of Covid-19, especially when the vaccination programme is yet to cover over 95 per cent of the eligible population that is largely oblivious to Covid-appropriate behaviour.

The State Government's decision to unlock has come when the current wave of the pandemic is still far worse than the first. Although numbers are on the decline, it is only in relative terms. The daily additions to the Covid-19 tally are still high. The highest addition in a single day during the first wave was 10,947 on October 7 last year. In the second wave, the highest single-day addition was 50,112 on May 5. On Saturday, it was 9,785, but still close to the highest count in the first wave.

On the Covid-19 death front, the highest number of fatalities in a day during the first wave was 179 on September 18, 2020, while the second wave's highest was 626 on May 23. On Saturday, it was 144, just 35 short of the highest in the first wave.

The first wave's peak in active cases was 1,20,929 on October 10 last year. But the number is as high as 1,91,796 on Saturday. This, while the vaccination drive is still far from covering a good percentage of the population.

PACE OF VAX DRIVE

Health Department data shows only 30.04 per cent of the estimated 16 lakh health care workers across the state are vaccinated. This is the largest segment vaccinated. Merely 1.12 per cent of the two crore front line workers, just 13.73 per cent among the 1.66 crore-strong 45-plus age-group segment, and only 0.02 per cent of the 3.25 crore in the 18-44 age-group segment, have been vaccinated.

With just 29,94,425 of the 7.07 crore vaccine-eligible population vaccinated, a mere 4.23 have been covered so far.

Dr Anand Ambali, vice-president of Geriatric Society of India and expert at BLDE Hospital, Vijayapura, says, "People aged between 18 to 45 years have to get immunized as early as possible. The vaccine is the only weapon to fight this virus. The government has to step up the vaccination drive to immunize the maximum number of people in the next few weeks."

BIG PICTURE

MAJOR CHALLENGES BEFORE STATE GOVT

INTER-DISTRICT MOVEMENT

11 districts to continue lockdown with existing stringent conditions

Fears raised over people crossing district borders

Inoculation drive

30.04% vaccinated among health care workers

1.12% vaccinated among frontline workers

13.73% vaccinated among 45+ age-group segment

0.02% Measly vaccinated among 18-44 age-group segment

Dr Giridhar Babu, epidemiologist at the Indian Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, and member of the state's Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee, says, "Meticulous micro-planning and energetic mobilisation campaigns are necessary to improve the vaccination coverage. Lessons from other supplementary immunisation programmes - such as measles - will be helpful. Besides, it is also important to address issues among population groups who have concerns about vaccines."

According to Dr B Unnikrishnan, Additional Dean and Professor of Community, Medicine Kasturba Medical College(KMC), Mangaluru, as the third wave is likely to affect those who have not been infected, including children, it is important now to take stock at the local level and find out if we are prepared. "The preparation should begin now. At the district level, micro-planning has to be done. Evaluate the resources available, as we have already seen a lot of deficiencies in resources in the second wave which was the main reason for the virus spread. Herd immunity can be achieved either by infection or by vaccination. So, vaccination is the key," he says.

Dr S A Kora, Head of Department of Medicine at B V V Sangha's S Nijalingappa Medical College and Hanagal Shri Kumareshwar Hospital and Research Centre, Bagalkot, says, "Although the government is geared up for unlocking, it has to enforce strict rules to prevent mass gatherings until 50 per cent of the total population is immunized."

INTER-DISTRICT TRAVEL

The government has excluded 11 districts from the unlock phase, where lockdown restrictions will continue until further notice. These districts are Bengaluru Rural, Chikkamagalur, Shivamogga, Davanagere, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Dakshina Kannada, Mandya, Belagavi and Kodagu. The positivity rate here is still on the higher side due to which inter-district travel from these places to districts where partial unlocking has been allowed is not allowed.

A major challenge seems to be people's movement between Mysuru (which is one of the 11 districts where lockdown will continue) and Bengaluru as many native Mysureans who are working in Bengaluru and are planning to move to Bengaluru following the partial lifting of lockdown in the latter. "Frequent shuttling between these two cities, especially when one of the districts is having a lockdown, might be a great chance for virus exposure. The district administration needs to focus on this. Also, movement of labourers from Chamarajanagar (also among the 11 districts) to Mysuru or Bengaluru can fuel the spread of Covid-19. This needs to be focused," says V Santhosh, member of an NGO working in Covid relief in Mysuru.

Dr Kora says, "The district administration should restrict inter-district movement until the positivity rates come down below 5 per cent in the state. It is not just about the people, even movement of vehicles, excluding ones linked to health emergencies, should be restricted for the next two weeks."

Dr Unnikrishnan of KMC says there cannot be a one-size-fits-all strategy. "It should be a district-appropriate strategy as every district has its own problems. Hence district-level focus is crucial to contain its spread."

Dr B Rajendra Kumar, senior physician who is treating hundreds of home-isolated patients through phone and WhatsApp calls in Kolar, says as the district borders Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, and with several routes to enter the district, "The lockdown should have continued for another fortnight with existing stringent conditions."

COVID-APPROPRIATE PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR

Experts have pointed out that with mutated variants of the SARS-CoV-2 viruses still on the way, it is of utmost importance for people to take responsibility for their own safety.

District Surgeon, Kalaburagi district Hospital, Dr Ambaraya Rudrawadi, says people tend to assume that the government's step of relaxing the lockdown norms means being allowed to do whatever they like. "If they start mixing with groups by attending fairs and programmes while forgetting to maintain social distance and not wearing masks, Covid cases might increase again. People should learn from the terrible memories of the second wave and follow Covid-19 protocol until the disease vanishes. They should realise that the government's decision to relax lockdown is to enable leading a more normal day-to-day, and not to risk their lives," he noted.

Dr Rajgopal Shenoy, a medical professional from Kasturba Medical College & Hospital, Manipal, says "But they (the state government) should have taken consideration of population as another criterion for unlocking. Places which see big crowds should have more stringent containment measures. Public awareness about social distance is still poor and just out of fear of the police, people wear masks, that too not properly."

He says at least for another four weeks, people should assume their place is locked and behave accordingly. Local administrations should keep an eye on garbage disposals as, during the rainy season, the fight is not just against Covid-19 but also to keep a check on diseases like malaria and dengue, which could complicate matters, he warns.

Geriatrician Dr Ambali says that as children are suspected to be more vulnerable in the third wave, they have to remain indoors and schools should remain closed till the positivity rate falls to below 5 per cent. At present, it is 8.76 per cent and reducing.

Health expert Dr Jagadish Nayal says, "Awareness among the people is a must. A majority of people even today think curbing the spread of viruses is in the hands of the government. That notion needs to be changed."

(With inputs from Karthik K K; Marx Tejaswi; Prakash Samaga; Mahesh Goudar; Udaya Kumar B R; Divya Cutinho; Raghu Koppar; Prajna G R; Ramkrishna Badseshi; Thipperudrappa B; Mallikarjun Hiremath; G Subhash Chandra; & V Velayudham)

City doctor assaulted by kin of victim

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

A senior intensivist at a private hospital in Bengaluru was assaulted by the family members of a Covid-19 patient who died after being on ventilator for 35 days.According to sources, the patient was admitted under the government quota, but did not respond well to treatment. The prognosis was also communicated to the family on a daily basis, and yet the chief consultant of the medical intensive care unit was assaulted on Saturday afternoon.

The doctor was also said to be verbally abused and a mobile phone thrown at him. However, as he was wearing a face shield, he did not sustain any major injury. The person who assaulted the doctor was apparently locked in the room and the police called in. An FIR has been registered at Puttenahalli police station. "We have filed an FIR and legal action will be taken against the accused," said a senior police officer.

Dr Somalaram Venkatesh, Chief of Cardiology at Aster RV Hospital, tweeted, " #violenceagainstdoctors. A respected senior intensivist of a reputed tertiary hospital in Bangalore was assaulted today by relatives of patient who succumbed to Covid. This doctor has worked relentlessly thro 1st & 2nd waves looking after Covid patients saving 100s of lives."

TO PLUG GAPS

Soon, a master software to link all Covid portals

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

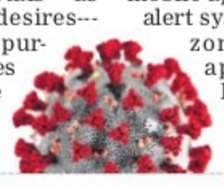
THE committee constituted by the State Government to look into the integration of all Covid-19 management portals is now working towards creating a master software that will not just link the portals, but also plug the leaks.

High-level meetings are being held on developing this new software. "Work is on to give the state war room the control of all the softwares, portals and apps and link them. At present, the BBMP and state war rooms operate separately. Apart from this, there are other portals too. So, one master programme is being planned ... A single, seamless portal and database is being created. The time frame of two months is too less... but work on it has started," a senior government official said

The official elaborated that merely linking all the softwares and portals--- as the government desires--- will not solve the purpose. A few softwares are obsolete. "We found complaints raised by citizens that their personal data like mobile numbers were shared with private firms. During assessment, we found gaps in software linking as the reason for such issues. They will also be plugged. All details will be merged into one master control base and to access it, permission will be required. So, if any information is used from this domain, it will immediately be tracked," the official added.

All latest technological interventions are being studied to make the best tool. The panel members are also studying technologies used in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The committee--- formed to iron out such technical issues--- was set up on June 8 and is headed by V Ponnuraj, Covid-19 war room in-charge. The committee has been envisaged with the task of integrating Parihara portal, contact tracing via mobile app, quarantine watch via mobile app and quarantine alert system, containment zones via mobile app, SAST portal, KPME portal, CH-BMS and other applications.



K'taka active caseload falls below 2 lakh-mark

BENGALURU: Active Covid-19 cases in Karnataka fell below the 2-lakh mark (1,91,796 cases) on Saturday with the state reporting 9,785 fresh cases, taking the total tally to 27,57,324. Also, 21,614 people were discharged. Meanwhile, 144 people succumbed to the virus on Saturday. Bengaluru Urban reported 2,454 fresh cases.

VACCINATE PARENTS TO PROTECT KIDS: EXPERTS

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

IT is important for parents to get vaccinated much before the arrival of the possible third wave of Covid-19 so that the transmission rate of coronavirus from them to their children is reduced, opined experts during a webinar on the topic 'Covid-19 and Children' organised on Saturday.

Dr Giridhar Babu, epidemiologist from the Public Health Foundation of India, and member of Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee, who was one of the panelist, said that every parent needs to get vaccinated to keep their children safe.

The possible third wave, according to experts, is more likely to attack children.

"Countries like the US, UK, Germany, Japan and Italy have already hit their fourth wave. However, severity of the infection there is less as the majority of the population is already vaccinated. Similarly, to prevent high cases in India's third wave--- that is likely to hit us in November- December this year--- we need to carry out mass vaccination programmes," he said.

He, however, said there was no reason to worry as the severity of the infection in children will be less compared to adults. Cases requiring ICU admissions and death rate among children are less, he added. He said the Union Government should approve emergency use of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to vaccinate children.

With post-Covid complications seen in adults in the first and second waves, children too might face complications in the third wave, said Dr Sanjiv Lewin, professor of pediatrics and chief medical services, St John's Medical College. "After a child recovers from Covid-19, parents should monitor them. Children between the age group of 6 and 14 might see rashes or persistent fever. They need to visit a doctor. Further, parents should not push their kids to perform activities as they might still experience fatigue. They should communicate with their children and teach them breathing exercises to calm their mind as Covid-19 can affect them mentally," he added.

Further, he said that pregnant women and lactating mothers should also get vaccinated after consulting their physicians.

The webinar was organised by UNICEF India in partnership with Sahodaya and Indian Pediatrics Association.

A health worker collects swab samples of a girl in Mysuru on Saturday| UDAYSHANKAR S

Countries like the US, UK, Japan and Italy have already hit their fourth wave. However, severity of the infection there is less as the majority of the population is vaccinated

Dr Giridhar Babu, epidemiologist

Pvt hosp holds victim's body over dues

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

MAQBOOL Jaan (70), who comes from a poor family, had tested positive for Covid-19 in May. However, after a long fight, she died on Friday night at a private hospital in Bengaluru. But despite a government circular against withholding bodies of victims, the hospital allegedly did not release her body, asking the family to clear bills first.

Jaan, a resident of Kuppuswamy Layout in Nagawara, was admitted on May 19 at Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, initially in the isolation ward with oxygen, and then moved to the ICU under government quota. However, after she died, the hospital reportedly did not allow her family to take the body and asked them to clear a part of the bill for pharmacy consumables not covered under the Ayushman Bharak-Arogya Karnataka scheme. The total bill was Rs 3,67,753 but the hospital asked them to pay Rs 1,30,253 for consumables and other tests and told them that only then they will be allowed to take the body. As the family is poor, and Jaan's son handicapped without a job, they could not clear the dues.

Volunteers from the emergency response team and BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta were alerted about the incident and the official in charge was told to follow up with the case. The body was released after about five hours once the officials intervened.

Mohammad Mohsin, IAS officer, who followed up the case, said, " The patient was admitted under SAST quota. The hospital had charged them bills stating some of the drugs used for bacterial infection were not cover under SAST. We went ahead and got the body relieved. No hospital can hold any body even if bills are not cleared. I have escalated the matter to BBMP joint commissioner of the particular zone who will further take this case seriously."

COVID BYTES

State's first CCC for tribals in BR Hils

BENGALURU :Karnataka's first Covid Care Centre (CCC) for tribals was inaugurated in the thick forest belt of BR Hills on Saturday. The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), with the help of The Corona Care Bengaluru, a consortium of six voluntary organisations, along with the support of Karmodaya and Caritas, inaugurated the CCC. "It is equipped with medical staff, oxygen concentrators and other equipment. At present, there are 30 patients, including adults and children, who are undergoing treatment at the CCC," said KSCPCR Chairperson Fr Anthony Sebastian. ENS

Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister D V Sadananda Gowda on Saturday said Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited is setting up a nano urea production unit in Karnataka. He said the land will be identified near KIA, within the next 10 days

For representative purpose only

Corona samples of TN zoo lions contaminated?

Found to be leaking, could not be used despite best efforts by scientists

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA
@ Chennai

THE three samples that were sent to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad for genome sequencing of the coronavirus strain that infected Asiatic lions in Arignar Anna Zoological Park, have allegedly been found leaking and contaminated.

Sources told *TNIE* that all samples were leaking, and despite best efforts by CCMB scientists, they could not be used. "As per the CCMB protocol, such samples are not considered for diagnosis," a source said. A formal communication in this regard was sent by the CCMB to the Vandalur Zoo on Friday.

When contacted, Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan, scientist-in-charge of CCMB, neither confirmed nor denied the development. "We have a non-disclosure agreement with the users. So, I can't reveal anything. The report has been sent to Vandalur Zoo."

TNIE couldn't verify whether the zoo authorities secured a reserve sample of deceased lioness Neela, to resend it for genome sequencing. If not, a crucial piece of genetic material would be lost forever, considering Neela was the first big cat to have died of Covid-19 in India with no apparent health complications and symptoms.

> **We have a non-disclosure agreement with the users. So, I can't reveal anything. The report has been sent to Vandalur Zoo**
>
> Dr Karthikeyan Vasudevan, scientist-in-charge of CCMB

It is not clear how the samples leaked when there are standard techniques and protocols for collection and transport. Florida Tilton, CMD of Chennai-based Biozone Research Technologies Pvt Ltd, told *TNIE* genome sequencing is the most important thing during a pandemic such as this.

"It will give us a deep understanding of the strain that infected the lions. We will know whether it is similar to the one infecting humans, how different it is from the strains that infected big cats in other zoos across the country, whether it is mutating, its behaviour in terms of how fast it spreads, the kind of symptoms and the intensity of the disease it causes," said Florida.

PANDEMIC PROBLEMS

Rural pvt schools seek PM's help

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ Bengaluru

PRIVATE rural schools in the state have written to the Prime Minister with a list of demands which include waiving interest on term loans charged during the pandemic period, postponement of EMIs, restructuring working capital limits and providing further financial support to the managements of unaided schools in Karnataka. They have sought his intervention to give clear instructions to the State Government to help unaided schools and consider their request.

Lokesh Talikatte, president of RUPSA Karnataka, said that while the Reserve Bank of India has announced a Resolution Framework-2.0 on Covid-19 related stress for individuals and small businesses, banks and financial institutions are reluctant to implement the RBI instructions. "They have not framed the Board Approved Policies nor even publicised the implementation of the resolution, as directed by the RBI, in the Invocation of Resolution Process (7)," he said, adding that as a reason for school managements to be under financial stress.

Lokesh said that a majority of the 20,900 member private unaided schools in Karnataka are budget schools, easily accessible to the poor and middle class parents. "Due to the Covid pandemic and inconsistent decisions of the Education Department, we have suffered huge financial losses. Though we have respected and accepted a 30 pc cut in fees, parents have not come forward to pay up and thus, we are in financial crisis. We are finding it extremely difficult to meet expenditures," he said.

Edu minister warns of notices

ENS @ Bengaluru

PRIMARY and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar on Saturday said the department will serve notice to schools tying up with financial agencies and making parents take loans to pay fees.

Private schools have been furious as admissions have dipped for two years in a row, and so has their revenue with several parents yet to pay last year's fee. Mansoor Ali Khan, General Secretary, Management of Independent CBSE Schools' Association (MICSA), told TNIE that its better the minister has a debate with the school administrators than make reactive statements based on reports. "Schools have not forced parents to take loans and the burden of interest to be paid on the loans lies with the school. Let the government give free loans to parents. The assurance relief of Rs 5,000 to teachers makes them look like they're carrying a begging bowl," he said.

Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Karnataka Associated Management of English Medium Schools (KAMS) said that parents have evaded paying fees for three years, and when asked for it, they call it torture. He said the government ought to give support to institutions in this case. "How can we give continuous education if last year's fee is not paid and this year's admission is not confirmed?" he asked. He sought the minister's clarification on the fee issue.

The minister said that the matter about schools tying up with financial institutes was unheard of and the chief minister is apprised of the situation. "No opportunity will be given for such activities," he added.

Guest lecturers threaten to boycott PU I evaluation

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ Bengaluru

GUEST lecturers have threatened to boycott first PUC evaluation, questioning the government's decision to terminate the services of several of them. They demanded that 1,835 guest lecturers, who have lost jobs, should be allowed to work until the evaluation process is completed.

Members of the Karnataka State PU Lecturers' Association said how the department could ask them to evaluate papers, when their services have been terminated as per the government order of June 8.

They demanded that the order be withdrawn and the monthly honorarium be continued till the first PU results are announced. The lecturers said that they taught students despite minimum wages but the government put them out of jobs.

They sought the salary equal to permanent lecturers and said the government is trying to save ₹9,000 monthly honorarium it paid each lecturer for the past six years.

"Who will evaluate the papers if there is no permanent appointment and guest lecturers are out of jobs," they asked. Ramanna S Ibrahimpur, district secretary, All-India Save Education Committee, said they met the minister, who assured them of action. But, he said, they were not sure whether the issue would be taken forward.

All-India Democratic Youth Organisation district secretary Jaggannath HS said the guest lecturers are yet to get their salary for three months. Three guest lectures died of Covid in Yadgir and Raichur districts but no relief was given to their families, he said. Ninge Gowda AH, president of the Karnataka State Pre-University College Lecturers' Association, said 1,329 guest lecturers were removed after the lockdown was announced.

Department officials were unavailable for comment.

Noted Kannada Dalit poet Siddalingaiah's body was kept for public viewing at Bangalore University's Dr Ambedkar Study Centre where Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilisers DV Sadananda Gowda and former CM Siddaramaiah paid their last respects. His last rites were performed with full state honours at Kalagrama in Chandra Layout on Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan and other senior officials were present

'Rules don't permit elevating SC lawyers as HC judges'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CONTENDING that the mandate of the Constitution and judgements of the Supreme Court will not permit that lawyers practising in the SC be elevated as judges of the High Courts, the Advocates' Association of Bangalore (AAB) appealed to Chief Justice of India NV Ramana to consider members of the Bar practising in the HCs to be elevated as judges of the apex court, in tune with the provisions of Article 124 of the Constitution.

In a letter to the CJI, in view of the reports from a section of the media that the Supreme Court Bar Association submitted a proposal to consider lawyers practising in the apex court for elevation as judges of HCs, AAB president AP Ranganatha said that a person should not be considered for appointment as a High Court judge, unless he/she has, for at least 10 years, been an advocate of the High Court or of two such courts in succession, as per Article 217 of the Constitution.

Ranganatha added that the mandate of the Constitution would leave no doubt that the focus and primary consideration for appointment of Bar members directly as HC judges, is to be considered from amongst the members of the Bar, who are actively practising in the High Court. He stated that what is important to be noticed is that judges of the Supreme Court are to be appointed from amongst the members of the Bar, who are practising in a High Court.

CRIME PATROL

CD-gate: SIT quizzes Gowda, Kumar

Bengaluru: The Special Investigation Team probing the CD-gate case on Saturday quizzed Naresh Gowda and Shravan Kumar, after they were granted conditional bail. Officials questioned the duo for 8 hours to ascertain their alleged role in the CD row and also alleged extortion.

CCB arrests three gunrunners

Bengaluru: The Central Crime Branch on Saturday arrested a gang of three men, who were allegedly supplying country-made weapons to gangsters in the city. They seized three country-made pistols and 15 rounds of ammunition from them. The key accused is involved in 23 cases across the state.

App scam probe led sleuths to Delhi, Surat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ONCE investors put in their money, they go incommunicado. They also opened shell companies to route the money fraudulently. The complainant company got to know that the public was cheated after their customers complained. During investigation, the cops found that the accused had created apps, including Powerbank, that were trending on Playstore. The sleuths noticed that there was a huge spike in opening of shell companies since November 2020 and a large number of Chinese handlers were in possession of these companies and the bank accounts.

> **We have seen criminals as perpetual early adopters of technology to defraud the public. I urge the public to be wary of any investment that promises you more than 12 per cent annual returns**
>
> PS Sandhu, IPS, DGP, CID Karnataka

A detailed probe led them to Delhi, Surat and other places. The police then nabbed two Tibetan nationals and two Chinese nationals and five others who were acting as directors of the companies. It was found that similar syndicates existed in Delhi and Bengal too, and all over the country, around five lakh people had been cheated. Sources confirmed that more cases have been filed in different police stations across the State.

The cyber crime police said that during the investigation, it was found that Anas Ahmed, a Kerala-based businessman, was the main accused. "He had close links with the Chinese hawala operators and it came to light during the probe. The accused had opened shell companies in the name of Bullfinch Technologies, H&S Ventures and Clifford Ventures to route the fraud money," the statement from the CID said.

"We found a total inflow of ₹290 crore into his bank accounts. We froze majority of the amount," police officials said. A criminal case has been registered.

EXPRESS READ

Three ALH Mk-III choppers inducted into Indian Coast Guard

Bengaluru: Three units of Advanced Light Helicopters ALH Mk-III manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) manufactured were inducted into the Indian Coast Guard squadron. The helicopters will be placed in Bhubaneswar, Porbandar, Chennai and Kochi and will be Coast Guard Aviation Squadrons. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, was present for the induction ceremony that was held virtually. "These helicopters will usher a paradigm shift in the capability in ship-borne operations and enhance coastal surveillance" said Director General, Indian Coast Guard, K Natarajan.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.Comml 21042 dt : 10.06.2021

The Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Southern Railway, Chennai - 600 003 invites E-Tender for leasing a round trip Parcel Cargo Express Train (RPM-NGC-RPM) for a period of 6 years.

Details of reserve price, EMD, etc., can be viewed in the website - www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Commercial Manager, Chennai Division, Park Town, Chennai - 600 003.

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CHENNAI DIVISION - MECHANICAL BRANCH

GEM Bid No.GEM/2021/B/1276618 dated 10/06/2021

Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/Chennai Division, Chennai - 600 003 invites ONLINE Tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the GEM portal Custom Bid GEM.gov.in. The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for outsourcing of Mechanized cleaning work at Tambaram Railway Station for 365 days in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.gem.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

GeM Bid No. : GEM/2021/B/1276618 dated 10/06/2021.

Description : Mechanized cleaning work at Tambaram Railway Station for 365 days.

Location : Tambaram Railway Station (TBM).

Value in Rs. : 18942519.77

Period of completion : 365 days.

Tender closing date and time : 22/06/2021 at 18.00 hrs.

Tender opening date and time : 22/06/2021 at 18.30 hrs.

Details of value of tender, Scope, Tender Conditions are given in e-portal www.gem.gov.in. For details bid submission please refer to web portal www.gem.gov.in.

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical)/Chennai - 600 003.

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INDULGE

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳನಾಡು ಜಲಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 05/2021-22/ 741-49 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-06-2021

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ WWW.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡ್ಯಾಕುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಮೇಲಿನ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 2020-21ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 8443 ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ ರಡಿ ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ನಾಪೋಕ್ಲುನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್) ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 137335) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ : 12.07.2021 11 : 00 : 00
2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13.07.2021 16 : 00 : 00
3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15.07.2021 11 : 00 : 00

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಕೊಡಗು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ.

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Phone/Fax: 08226-222027 e-mail: eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement portal only)
(Two Cover System: Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)

Tender Notification No 07/2021-22 Dated: 05.06.2021

Item rate tenders are invited' through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governer of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document KW-4 form The Total no of works is 2, **H/A 5054-03-337-0-16-154 SH Bridges** minimum estimate cost Rs,150.00 lakhs & maximum estimated cost is Rs, 250.00 lakhs, & Total No of Works is 2, **H/A:- 5054-03-101-0-02-132 MDR Bridges,** maximum estimated cost is Rs, 150.00 lakhs, And Total no of works is 2, **H/A :-8443 DC Works,** minimum estimate cost Rs,175.00 lakhs & maximum estimated cost is Rs, 200.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 07.06.2021 to 23.06.2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	14.06.2021 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	25.06.2021 after 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	After technical bid approval

More information can be had from the web site: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

DIPR:CHANAGAR:95-2021-22

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Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Advanced Machines Division
Yelwal, Mysore - 571130 Tel: 0821-2406604/6523/6201 .Fax : 0821-240 3064

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE
Tender No : BARC/MYS/AM/RM/2021/WT-69

Superintending Engineer BARC, Mysuru invites on behalf of President of India sealed item rate tenders from experienced Contractor with sound financial &technical capacity for following works:

Description	Details
Name of the Work	Operation of High Vacuum Heat-Treatment Furnaces under departmental supervision at BARC site, Mysuru.
Estimated Cost	₹ 4,30,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Thousand only)
Completion Period	12 (Twelve) months
Earnest Money	Nil, Pre Bid-Security Declaration as per the format attached
Cost of Tender Document	₹ 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only) Non-Refundable
Sale of Tender Documents	From: 14/06/2021 to 24/06/2021 between 11.00 hours to 16.00 hours
Due date & time for submission of Tender	25/06/2021 at 15.00 hrs
Date & time of opening of Tender	25/06/2021 at 15.30 hrs
Place of Tender Submission	Tender Box having Identification No.3 at Bldg. No.2
Place of Tender opening	O/o Pay & Accounts Officer, BARC, Bldg.No.2

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
For & on behalf of the President of India

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
Telephone: (080)-25591325, E-mail: bowringmedicalcollege@gmail.com

Ref No.SABVMCRI/242/2021-22 Dated : 11.06.2021

NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the 33 post of Assistant Professors in various Departments.
The details of the Number of posts, Qualification, Experience, Pay Scale, Application Form, Application Fee and other details may be obtained from the website **bowringandladycurzonmedicalcollege.org**.
Online application form available in website **bowringandladycurzonmedicalcollege.org** should be filled. Acknowledgement copy along with two sets of self-attested documents should be submitted to the office on or before **5.00 PM of 30.06.2021**. Application fee of **Rs. 2000/-** should be paid through online.
The interview date Department wise will be intimated in the website. Relevant documents submitted after due date in person or through post will not be considered.

Sd/- Director Cum Dean
SABVMCRI, Bengaluru

DIPR/DDO/Bangalore/Bronze/536/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

"I can only be me. I have a hard time being a chameleon as a singer." — Chris Stapleton

WHY IS URBAN INDIA MISSING IN COVID RELIEF

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

ELECTORAL arithmetic has been a dominant influencer and driver of economic policy in India. This politically expedient approach has led to the relegation of urban India — particularly the low-to-middle income class — as a people of a lesser God. That urban India contributes, depending on who is telling the story, between half and two thirds of the GDP counts less as the sum total of rural votes count more.

The inherent bias is evident in crafting of Covid relief programmes. There is talk about another stimulus package for the farm sector and for the rural poor. While this is necessary, welcome and applause worthy, the fact is there is no sign of a similar initiative for urban India. The rural poor have MGNREGS, the rural employment scheme, but the urban poor have nothing to fall back on. There is a strong case for a relief package for urban India — particularly those in the informal sector, the small businesses such as restaurants and shops, and the self-employed.

Every day, at specific intersections of city centres, hundreds of casual/informal wage earners are huddled seeking a day's income. Intervention is necessary to prevent their descent into debilitating penury. Yes, they have been allocated free ration but sustenance requires more. The urban poor are identifiable — the National Food Security Act specifies coverage of 25 per cent of the urban populace. A phased cash transfer, at least for two quarters, would serve as a balm for the bruised and battered urban poor.

It is true that some state governments have initiated schemes. Maharashtra has cash transfers for registered ₹1,500 for registered street vendors/₹2,000 for rickshaw drivers; Tamil Nadu has a monthly assistance scheme for unemployed; Jharkhand and Telangana have announced unemployment dole; and Odisha has a programme for street vendors. However, well-meaning these programmes are far from sufficient. A national crisis requires a national response.

Hundreds of micro and medium enterprises are struggling to stay afloat. Their viability is hurt by the sub-optimal conditions, of partial and phased operations. Subvention of costs — whether it is electricity bills or rent — will lessen the burden of staying alive. Elsewhere in the world payroll protection programmes have served well. An interest cost subvention subsidy based on jobs sustained/saved/added can help the enterprises navigate the crisis. Construction has the biggest multiplier effect on the economy. A payroll protection programme via contracting agencies for contract workers will ensure survival of enterprises and individuals. The measures will keep borrowers off the bad loan charts and prop consumption and growth.

The second wave devastated many middle-class families — many had to sell family silver/spend savings to save lives. Those in the face-to-face economy must face an uncertain future till the pandemic persists and the rising cost of living. The urban educated must ward off the virus and navigate a shrinking job market. A report by the SBI (EcoWrap May 28/2021) states: "The pandemic has created a definite scar in labour markets." The largest decline in employee expense was in the smallest firms which host the bulk of jobs. EPFO data shows that the economy which ideally needs to add 10 lakh jobs a month or roughly 1.2 crore a year, created 44 lakh first-time jobs in 12 months.

Hope and optimism are deterred by the spectre of a third wave, inadequacies of vaccination rollout and ergo poor visibility of where the economy is headed. While this time round there is no national lockdown, the fact is every major urban centre and over 90 per cent of the country has been and continues to be under some shade of lockdown. The Centre has the headroom to do more and the funds the states allocated for procuring vaccines to save lives can now be deployed to protect livelihoods. Consider the data points available in public which effectively argue the case for intervention and stimulus.

This week in its bi-monthly policy statement, the Reserve Bank of India underlined that "the dent on urban demand poses downside risks". RBI's consumer confidence survey (on general economic situation, employment, overall prices, own income and spending) across 13 major cities carried a grave message. Consumer confidence "fell to a new all-time low". Worse, the Future Expectations Index "moved to pessimistic territory for the second time since the onset of the pandemic". The macro picture of distress is reflected in 'The State of Work in India 2021' report of Azim Premji University. It observes that "the number of individuals who live below the national minimum wage threshold increased by 230 million (23 crore) during the pandemic." Specifically, the report points out that while poverty rate rose by 15 per cent in rural areas, it was higher at 20 per cent in urban areas. Indeed, government data shows over 75 lakh households have made withdrawals from EPF dipping into retirement savings to meet with day-to-day needs.

The ambition to revive the economy and sustain growth demands a re-think on the contours of Covid relief. In good and bad times economic growth rests on the fundamental thesis that income drives consumption, propping up demand to nudge investment and propel growth. The anecdotal and the empirical picture calls for a sense of urgency in devising ways to mitigate misery. The time for intellectual engagement and quibbles about the need to intervene has long since passed.

THE CONDEMNED REMAIN CONDEMNED

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

HOW easily power goes to the head of politicians. When Delhi authorities were told to produce former student leader Umar Khalid in court, the police wanted to take him in handcuffs and leg chains. "Handcuffs in both hands from the backside," as they explained in their application. The reason cited was that armed assailants had tried to free an undertrial prisoner at the GTB Hospital a couple of months earlier.

Chastising the police authorities, the court said: "The application [by the police] appears to have been filed in a mechanical manner, without application of the mind." In words that made the police look dogmatic, the judge said: "The accused persons who are sought to be produced in fetters and handcuffs are admittedly not previous convicts. They are not even gangsters."

Those remarks were a pointer to what has become police routine. They automatically assume that everyone in a jail is a gangster or murderer. The third degree for which Indian prisons are notorious reveal the premises on which policemen operate. No Indian today can play Nelson Mandela. The South African hero once recalled how "on the first day in prison he put his foot down and insisted that he be respected." If an Indian prisoner today puts his foot down in similar fashion, his whole leg would be chopped off.

In India, prisoners are dehumanised. Even an 84-year old Parkinson's disease victim cannot expect humane treatment. Stan Swamy had difficulty holding a drinking straw, let alone a glass. He applied for a straw so that he could drink fluids. The police took days to make a response. When they did, it was to tell the court that they did not have a straw and a sipper to give Swamy. It was an example of tragedy turning into comedy.

Swamy's medical application had made it clear that he had lost hearing from both ears, had fallen in jail multiple times and had been operated for hernia twice and needed protection from Covid. Yet, the court turned down his plea, accepting the jail superintendent's stand that "It does not speak even by stretch of imagination that the applicant is suffering from any illness for which treatment is not available in prison."

Common sense is absent in actions of this kind, let alone basic humanitarian considerations. The only aim is to establish the supremacy of power-wielders and justify even their lack of compassion. Power is the ultimate determining factor. And power is used by our politicians and police to intimidate citizens and make them feel helpless before authorities.

This is the philosophy of police rule in less advanced civilisations like India. To see the contrast between this approach and the approach of advanced countries, we should look at Scotland Yard, the famed police establishment of Britain. The image of Scotland Yard is that of a uniformed force that looks after the public in a friendly way. A constable there is known as Bobby and a Bobby mixes with people as one of them. People feel secure in the presence of a Bobby without the Bobby having to show anything special to win that confidence. In our case, people feel nervous in the presence of a cop. It is a folk tale in many parts of India that mothers put difficult children to bed by saying, in hushed tones, "Policeman is coming. Sleep. Sleep."

> **Scotland Yard is alien to India. The only yard we know is the Prison Yard, an outdoor space where prisoners get their exercise. There is a Prisons Act that lays down a list of dos and don'ts. But laws are notoriously twisted in prisons to let jailers do what they please with the prisoners**

Perhaps there was symbolism in Yusuf Ali's Lulu Group acquiring the Scotland Yard building in London in 2015 and turning it into a luxury hotel. It is more than a saying that in every nook and corner of the universe, there is a Malayalee presence. Who has not heard of the explorer who finally reached the North Pole and was relieved to see a little shop with the board "Malabar Chaya Kada." The Scotland Yard hotel can be expected to serve tea as good as the broth in the Chaya Kada.

Scotland Yard is alien to India. The only yard we know is the Prison Yard, an outdoor space where prisoners get their exercise. There is a Prisons Act that lays down a list of dos and don'ts. But laws are notoriously twisted in prisons to let jailers do what they please with the prisoners. Privileged Indians have a good time in jail — the likes of Gurmeet Ram Rahim, Sasikala Natarajan and Abdul Karim Telgi. Ordinary Indians rot.

Why are decent citizens like Natasha Narwal (of Pinjra Tod fame) kept in jail? Why indeed is Umar Khalid kept in jail after testing positive for Corona? The Supreme Court spoke against overcrowding in prisons during the Covid wave. Who cares?

MAMATA MUST ABANDON STRIFE FOR BENGAL'S GAIN

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

DEAR Mamata Di,

Every victory is an opportunity. Every loss is a possibility. Your electoral defeat by your own protégé Suvendu Adhikari in Nandigram hasn't doused your fighting spirit which fuelled TMC's cyclonic triumph over the formidable BJP, which put men, money and machine to depose you from Writers Building. It was the ugliest political battle of your life. The BJP's campaign was led by omniscient orator Narendra Modi supported by a humongous party organisation. You are the second woman chief minister to win three consecutive terms after Sheila Dixit in Delhi. And you are the only regional leader who has thrived in the Modi-dominated political mandala. But after victory comes grace and greatness.

The choicest invectives and adjectives were hurled at you. But the voters of Bengal chastised the BJP for the 'Didi-o-Didi' catcalls. Now, they expect you to rule, not rail. Election after election, they have given you more seats and a higher share of the votes in the Assembly, not for indulging in a war of words with the Prime Minister and other BJP leaders. After the viciously vindictive verbal war, you could have demolished your adversaries with silence and by extending constructive cooperation to those who are unable to digest your well-deserved victory.

You may not have yet become a credible national alternative with an acceptable ideology. But Mamata Didi is now a pan India brand with a difference. Never before has so much time and money been spent on TV and other platforms to discuss the impact of the Mamata Metaphor on national politics. You are not one of those politicians who were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. Like Modi, you have a lower middle-class background. A Brahmin you may be, but your cotton sari and *hawai chappal* persona places you apart from other netas.

But your post-win rhetoric does not reflect the posture of a victor. When you assert that "we want PM Modi removed", it betrays misplaced confidence. You can't, even if you wish to, topple mighty Modi who enjoys the highest popular ratings and almost two thirds majority in the Lok Sabha. You have an outside chance of marginally diminishing this advantage, if you rise above personal peeves. It is easy to understand your indignation when the threat to your party is continuous and Central agencies are unleashed against your ministers. But can West Bengal flourish through incessant confrontations with the Centre and Modi personally? You always mention the Constitution. It provides certain privileges to prime ministers which chief ministers aren't entitled to. A chief minister is not expected to boycott the Prime Minister or display anger by walking out of meetings. The Prime Minister is a constitutionally protected institution.

During the past seven years, you have rarely attended a meeting called by Modi. You are perhaps the only CM who has been consistently dismissive of him as nobody. This may be prompted by the BJP's intolerance towards your defiance and posing a challenge to its icon. You erred by not reading the right signals. Bengal's voters gave the BJP 40 per cent of the ballots and 18 MPs in 2019-2020. Like many states, Bengal thinks national during national elections and local during local elections. And Defection Dramas contributed handsomely to BJP's poll fortunes.

You must realise that you have fallen into the saffron trap. BJP's aims to create a Bengal narrative as a nationally politically and economically integrated unit with Kolkata as an investment and conference destination like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad as before. After the Left and the Congress lost their relevance in Bengal, the BJP made a grab for the vacated space. Its objective is to provide an ideologically

> **You must realise that you have fallen into the saffron trap. BJP's aims to create a Bengal narrative as a nationally politically and economically integrated unit with Kolkata as an investment and conference destination like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad as before**

nationalist alternative to a regional party which survives on minority appeasement and assumed cultural identity.

In protecting your local turf, you sacrificed the national outlook you had acquired as an active Congress leader. You fought the Communists to protect Bengal's culture and oppose their exclusive ideology. Only you could demolish their three decade-rule because of your moxie as a champion of the right cause and the marginalised. Unfortunately, your party has been infiltrated by the same elements which had converted Bengal into a bloody battlefield of political hatred.

Please don't forget the axiom that "the most dangerous moment comes with victory". After the election, the numerous political murders and displacement of your foes have dulled the sheen of your magnificent triumph. You could have taken a tough stand by punishing the culprits and assuring your protection to people who didn't vote for you. Your complaints against the Centre about harassment may be genuine. The hyperactive Governor's antics are irritating you. But your aggressive posturing may initiate more adverse Central actions against your ministers, civil servants and supporters.

Show magnanimity and forget the past and current torture for a rewarding future. You may not have revealed your prime ministerial ambitions, yet. But your close confidantes have. Now that you have put in place your succession plans, your acceptability beyond Bengal's borders would depend on your ability to adjust and accept. By electing you thrice in a row, the ordinary '*manush*' decisively rejected elitist domination in state politics. Almost all other chief ministers belong to a dynasty or a caste cartel. The rest lose connectivity beyond their geographical boundaries.

Successful CMs like Naveen Patnaik have chosen the middle path of selective confrontation and mutually gainful consensus. India needs an assertive Opposition led by credible leaders. Barring Sharad Pawar, no other challenger has the stature to bring the fragmented parties together. You would add to his political craft by becoming his ally. Both of you along with others offer a better and credible alternative idea of India and not just an alternative individual to replace Modi. You are bound to lose to Modi in your personality driven endeavour. The Gandhis are blinded by their lust for power inspite of losing their lustre.

Your admirers and promoters define you as Maa Durga. In Hindu mythology, Durga acquires much better traction when placed on an equal pedestal with Ram. With the saffron rise in Bengal at the cost of the Congress and the Reds, you have to tread a careful path. You will flounder if you place Bengal above Bharat. After all, numerous Bengali scholars and saints have contributed to making India what it is today. Modi can survive without Mamata. But Mamata may find it difficult to thrive without Modi. The battle is over. Not the war.

Talking consensus, instead of taking umbrage, is the best way for both leaders to reach the trillion-dollar horizon together once the pandemic is conquered. Or, else the epidemic of hatred will spill over the borders of Bengal and taint the national nature of your destiny. Bring more of Bharat to Bengal for its transformation into Sonar Bangla.

QUOTE CORNER

He (Trump) is a colourful individual. You may like him or not. And, but he didn't come from the US establishment, he had not been part of big-time politics before, and some like it, some don't like it, but that is a fact.

Vladimir Putin, Russia president

We need a global vaccination plan. We need to act with a logic, with a sense of urgency, and with the priorities of a war economy, and we are still far from getting that.

António Guterres, UN secretary general

What I can certainly say is we are looking at the data, but what you can certainly take is... the roadmap was always cautious but irreversible, and in order to have an irreversible roadmap, we've got to be cautious (to open up).

Boris Johnson, UK Prime Minister

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Not love, it's psychic disorder

The news about a young woman had been confined to a bathroom-like small room by her lover for 10 years until she was rescued last week in Kerala defies logic. This has been a topic for discussion ever since this case was reported. Hasn't this man denied the lady all her rights as an individual? It is nothing but life term punishment. The society's acceptance of it as 'love' shows how morality is perceived by communities. Literacy can make one knowledgeable but not morally conscious is what that one can learn from this incident.

Bijumon PN, Idukki

Strong opposition needed

In a democracy, the role of opposition is very vital. Otherwise, any ruling party is likely to function erratically and do whims and fancies like demonetization, imposing irrational GST, removing fuel price fixing mechanism among others. It is high time that all the opposition parties join hands, sinking all their differences, to safeguard the very edifice of democracy for reining in the ruling party, thus precluding democracy from the state of brink. Otherwise, dominance of one party will certainly destroy the hard established democracy for its own baseless tenets.

B S Badarinarayana, Bengaluru

Nexus of babus-politicos

The massive felling of rosewood trees in Wayanad by misinterpreting government order, is not an isolated incident. Bureaucrats and top politicians are involved in this robbery. To book the looters investigation by special team constituted or Kerala Police is insufficient. What is urgently needed now is a CBI investigation. The probe should begin from the origin of the government order issued by the Secretary of Revenue on October 24, 2020, for the felling of rosewood trees on revenue land assigned to farmers.

K A Solaman, Alappuzha

Flawed selection process

Many retired civil service officers have repeatedly questioned the authenticity of the selection procedure of the CBI Director. (Why not write an obituary for the CBI, June 6) Currently, a panel comprising the PM, the CJI and the Leader of Opposition determine who would be the candidate. The LoP's inclusion is irrelevant, argue some retired civil officers. They point out that since the CBI's inception, the selection was very seldom unanimous. Of late, more and more States are coming out with withdrawal consent for the CBI to enter their states for any probe. The Centre has to correct this major shortcoming so that the CBI can be called a premier investigating agency.

Ravi Mannethu, Pullad

Opportunism of Mukul Roy

Opportunism has been a proven equation among politicians for decades. The latest incident of Mukul Roy returning to the TMC exposes the double standards of the politicians in Bengal. Mamata Banerjee intended a psychological attack on the saffron camp by accepting the turncoats. A volatile situation, frequent attacks on BJP leaders and workers and losses in assembly elections too can be said to be the reasons that prompted him to knock on the doors of TMC.

Bijumon PN, Idukki

BJP's Mission UP

The BJP has sounded the poll bugle in Uttar Pradesh. Mudslinging match shall gather steam and BJP shall try every trick in the book to gloss over its failures and for not living up to the poll promises. Raising MSP is one of the steps. Poaching and defections shall be the order of the day. Unleashing of investigative agencies shall egregiously play out. The voters rather than holding the government of the day accountable are likely to be swayed away by machinations of BJP as opposition is in disarray. The talk of the split of UP is also an admission that the Yogi government had to bite more than it can chew and the outcome is axiomatic.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi @narendramodi
India's Aspirational Districts Programme aims to ensure inclusive & all-round development in areas across our nation

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
To deal with the financial crisis, it is necessary to strengthen MGNREGS further. Whatever be the government, the people belong to India

Prashant Bhushan @pbhushanl
From sinking ship to syncing ship of Bhakts. Even this syncing ship is about to sink

COVID TRACKER

10,80,690
ACTIVE CASES

95.07%
RECOVERY RATE

4.39%
DAILYPOSITIVITY RATE

4.93%
WEEKLYPOSITIVITY RATE

VACCINE UPDATES

24,96,00,304
DOSES ADMINISTERED SO FAR

25.87 crore
DOSES PROVIDED TO STATES/UTS SO FAR

24.76 crore
TOTAL CONSUMPTION, INCLUDING WASTAGE

1.12 crore
DOSES STILL AVAILABLE WITH STATES/UTS TO BE ADMINISTERED

10,81,300
DOSES IN PIPELINE AND TO BE RECEIVED BY STATES/ UTS IN NEXT THREE DAYS

HELPLINE NUMBERS

1075: National helpline
1098: Child helpline
14567: Senior citizens helpline
08046110007: Helpline of NIMHANS for psychological support

Source: Union Health Ministry

Citizens set up health centre

Dehradun: A group of people from Uttarakhand and Canada have come together to upgrade a 20-bed community health centre in Naugaon of Uttarkashi district in Uttarakhand. This facility aims to cater to a rural population of over 1,000 in nearby villages. Dr Shikha Prakash, resident of Dehradun and cofounder of 'Valley Culture' initiative, said: "This is our payback to our farmers and the people of Uttarakhand." The group has supplied 18 kinds of items including wheelchairs, IV stand, stretcher trollys, computer tables and a 20 KV generator worth over `10 lakh so that the centre can function properly.

Religion tourism on UP radar

Lucknow: With the second Covid-19 showing signs of subsiding, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is focussing on developing prominent religious places and shrines into major tourism hubs. "With the aim to transform UP into a landmark religious-tourist destination across the globe, on the instructions of the CM, beautification work of Vindhyachal, Chitrakoot, Naimisaranyam, Shakambhari Devi Siddhapeeth of Saharanpur, Shuktirth, Shravasti, Balrampur, Devipatan, and other religious places is being done on a war footing to enhance facilities for visitors," said a statement.

Vaccination drive a bumpy ride in tribal belts of India

In most cases, inoculation percentage among the ST is lower than state average; experts attribute this to misconception & accessibility

ANURAAG SINGH, SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI, RAJESH ASNANI
@ Bhopal/Mumbai/Jaipur

Vaccine has reached tribal areas, but there is hesitancy among people to take it | PTI

COVID-19 vaccination in the tribal belts of India has been an eventful exercise. In most places, there is hesitancy and numbers are low. There are villages without a single shot administered. Inoculation is higher in this section of the population only in a handful of states. According to the 2011 census, 8.6% or about 10.4 crore Indians belong to the Scheduled Tribes.

In Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, vaccination coverage among these tribes has been satisfactory. They form a sizable part of population in these states and there are instances of tribal-dominated districts doing better than other districts. But Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and West Bengal present the bigger picture, where the drive is yet to penetrate into the tribal heartlands. In some places, resistance caused by misconceptions is making things difficult for healthcare workers.

Tribes constitute 9.35% of Maharashtra's population. While the state has vaccinated 38.51% of its people, figures are not as much in places these tribes reside. In districts like Nandurbar, Gadchiroli and Amarawati, vaccination percentage is 30.33, 27.72 and 33.41, respectively. In the non-tribal districts of Pune, Nagpur and Kolhapur, this is 50.94, 51.94 and 66.64 in that order.

In Madhya Pradesh, a comparative analysis of five tribal-dominated districts and as many non-tribal districts with nearly the same population reveals only 10-15% of people in the tribal-dominated districts have been vaccinated. The corresponding number in non-tribal districts is 15-19%. In Alirajpur district's 57 tribal-dominated villages, not one dose of vaccine has been injected so far. Same in Betul district, where over 40 demographically similar villages are yet to record a single shot.

About 13.5% of Rajasthan's population are from the ST. Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur and Dausa are among the districts with a sizable chunk of tribal people. A look at vaccination data shows these districts are way behind those where tribes are in the minority. With a tribal population of 76.4%, Banswara has a vaccination percentage of 24.33, Dungarpur with 70.8% has 20.35, Udaipur with over 50% has 24.77 and Dausa with 26.5% has 22.38. In contrast, Nagaur with a tribal population of 0.2% has vaccinated 32.07% of its residents, while Bikaner with 0.4% has achieved 31.24%.

In West Bengal as well, districts with a higher tribal population like Jhargram, West Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura are witnessing slow vaccination. Although the state health department has launched awareness campaigns, response has been tepid. Healthcare facilities in the district headquarters in Jhargram have administered 27,277 doses. In tribal-dominated Belpahari, this figure is 8,395. Purulia town has had 16,308 doses, while the tribal-dominated Sirkabad has got only 2,395.

Death due to any cause after getting vaccinated is attributed to the vaccine. News spreads & people start developing hesitancy. There is also a myth in tribal areas vaccine causes impotence

(IAS) Dr Manju Sheoran, CEO of Udaipur District Council, Rajasthan.

A video from Rajasthan's Kotda tahsil has gone viral. It shows a man holding an axe and asking the vaccination team to write on stamp paper he will be alright after taking the vaccine. There were reports from Chhattisgrah of health workers chased out of a village. These incidents explain to an extent why vaccination has not been so successful in tribal belts. Many in these areas believe they will die or become impotent on taking the shot. Superstitions and rumours have been a major roadblock.

Lack of vaccination centres and difficulties in accessing them add to the problem. "A myth was created the government wants to end the tribal population by administering the vaccine. Besides, vaccines centres are not easy to access. People have to travel on foot through tough terrains. The young can manage, not senior citizens," thinks Pratibha Shinde, a social activist in tribal areas of Maharashtra.

In MP's Alirajpur, District Collector Surabhi Gupta says cases have been registered for spreading rumours and preventing tribal people from getting jabs. Government officials also feel misleading videos have created apprehension.

The situation is better in Jharkhand and Chhattiasgarh. Jharkhand's tribal-dominated districts Lohardaga, Ranchi, Gumla and Palamu have recorded 36.5%, 30.94%, 34.72% and 35.80% vaccination. Districts with less tribal population like Hazaribagh, Koderma and Godda have numbers of 32.16%, 37.91% and 24.52%.

Although there are tribal pockets in Chhattisgarh with low vaccination figures, many such districts have done better than other districts. In Bastar and the Sarguja, where a lot of tribal people stay, vaccination percentage is over 80% and 72%. State capital Raipur has achieved 57% and Bilaspur, another urban centre, 61%.

Inputs from Ejaz Kaiser (Raipur), Mukesh Ranjan (Ranchi), Pranab Mondal (Kolkata)

Covaxin late-stage trial data soon: Manufacturer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

UNDER pressure to release the findings of its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin's efficacy clinical trials, Bharat Biotech on Saturday issued a statement saying it will soon make public the data from the late-stage trials. The firm emphasised it has published nine papers so far, related to clinical trials of the vaccine, over the last year.

"Currently, data from both efficacy and safety follow-up of Covaxin's phase III trial is being analyzed and compiled. Upholding its uncompromising commitment to integrity, the company will make phase III trials data from the final analysis public soon," Bharat Biotech said in a statement.

On Friday, V K Paul, head of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19, had said the company will publish results in the next 7-8 days, two days after the firm gave a July timeline for it.

Bharat Biotech is facing criticism for delay in publishing data also because the WHO has so far not granted Covaxin emergency use listing. The US drug regulator, too, has refused to allow restricted use permission for the vaccine in the country.

Recently, some independent study results came out which showed that compared to Covishield, Covaxin generates a lesser number of antibodies, an important marker of a vaccine's efficiency, in the recipients.

The company stressed that demonstrating its scientific commitment to data generation and transparency, it shares full data of all research studies of its Covaxin, India's first indigenous Covid vaccine. "Complete data for phase I and II, and partial data for phase III trials of Covaxin have been thoroughly scrutinized by the regulators in India," the firm said.

In a timely approach to peer review, the company has already published as many as nine research studies on the safety and efficacy of Covaxin, in five globally reputed, peer-reviewed journals in a span of just 12 months.

The company claimed the vaccine is the first and only product to have published any data from human clinical trials in India and is the only product to have any data on emerging variants. It said full data from studies on Covaxin's neutralization of variants are already published in various places.

COVID RELIEF

Rajasthan govt announces aid plan for orphans and widows

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE Rajasthan government has devised a major scheme to provide help to Covid-19 orphans and women widowed by the pandemic. Under this special package announced on Saturday by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, an immediate grant of ₹1 lakh has been sanctioned for these children.

In addition, the Covid orphans will be provided a monthly assistance of ₹2,500 till they reach the age of 18. Also, a one-time assistance of ₹5 lakh will be given to them when they reach that age. They will be given free education till higher secondary, besides other benefits under the Mukhyamantri Corona Bal Kalyan Yojna.

Women, who lost husbands in the pandemic, will get an ex-gratia of ₹1 lakh and a monthly pension of ₹1,500. In addition, their children will be given a monthly assistance ₹1,000. Text books and school uniform will also be provided.

The government will conduct a survey in all 33 districts to identify these orphans and widows. "NCPCR has asked for all information on such children to be put up on the Bal Swaraj portal. Through information from all districts, entries of over 700 Covid prphans have been uploaded. In addition, we have information that there are another 3,000 children who have lost one parent to the pandemic," said Reena Sharma. Additional Director of the Child Rights Department,

Child rights activist Vijay Goyal was delighted to hear about the package. "Many states have provided help to these orphans, but the Rajasthan package is much better as it will take care of all needs of these unfortunate children till they turn adults. In addition, the help for Covid widows and their children is a most welcome initiative and will greatly help these families," he said.

NO DIRECTION HOME

Passengers arrive at Howrah railway station to board trains, during the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown in Kolkata on Saturday | PTI

Antibody cocktail effective, but cost factor might become the hindrance

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

A month after the antibody cocktail was approved for treating mild to moderate Covid-19 in high-risk patients in India, some leading private hospitals have said they have achieved remarkable results with its usage so far.

This therapy, due to its exorbitant costs and very complex manufacturing process, however, is likely to remain a niche product and not a widely used tool in the country's fight against the pandemic. Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off viruses. Of late, some monoclonal antibodies have been specifically designed to target the spike protein of the Covid — they do not let the virus attach itself and enter into the human cells.

In February, the US drug regulator had issued an emergency use authorisation for monoclonal antibodies, bamlanivimab and etesevimab, months after then US President Donald Trump was treated with the therapy while infected with the virus.

The antibody cocktail needs to be used only for patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 who are at high risk for progressing to severe Covid-19. In the US, the approval was granted after a clinical trial showed substantial benefit to those who had received the therapy. In India, too, the combination of Casirivimab and Imdevimab by Roche India and Cipla, which can be given only to high-risk patients within 10 days of disease onset, was made available in May-end, following approval from the CDSCO.

The drug comes in a two-dose pack, with one patient needing just one dose-and costs nearly ₹60,000 per patient and can be given in only outpatient settings.

Akanksha Chawala, a critical care pulmonologist at Apollo Hospital in Delhi, said she had used the therapy in just two patients but the results had been extraordinary. "There is not just hype but actual benefit after this therapy," she said.

"In the absence of any reliable antiviral therapies for Covid, antibody cocktails can be a viable option for many but I am not sure how many people will ultimately get to use this," she said.

Anupam Singh, an infectious disease expert in Ghaziabad, said that access due to the high costs and complex manufacturing process could mean that only a certain class of people may ultimately benefit from the treatment.

S P Kalantri, clinician and a medical researcher at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Wardha, meanwhile, pointed out a larger equity issue related to the treatment.

"If physicians decide to treat Covid patients with the antibody cocktail, they will not only be treating only rich people who have resources and access to the hospital but they will also be undermining the common good if applied indiscriminately: this approach might divert resources and supporting infrastructure required for administration of the expensive medicine from the poor patients," he said.

Thus, the public hospitals — primary health centers, community hospitals, district hospitals and medical colleges — would not be able to administer large populations who qualify for the antibody but have no money, Kalantri added.

Short supply: Covaxin 1st shot stops in Uttarakhand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND has stopped administering the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin due to shortage of supply.

Officials from the state health department said that second doses are being administered to those who have got their first dose of Covaxin. It has been learnt that the state has not received adequate supply from the manufacturers.

Dr Rajiv Dixit, district immunity officer of Dehradun, said: "The first dose of Covaxin has been stopped for some time now due to shortages in supply. People in the age group of 18-44 have been struggling to get their second dose, after which the authorities decided to stop administering the first dose."

Gaurav Bisht, a resident of Dehradun, said: "I am due for the second dose of Covaxin soon and was trying to book the date. But I could not. Later, I got to know that there is shortage of Covaxin in the state."

Till date, a total of 4.64 lakh people in the state have been vaccinated with the first dose in the 18-44 age group. The state got 1.44 lakh doses of Covishield on Friday, said the officials. Uttarakhand has been allocated a total of 11 lakh doses.

On June, the Centre had issued letters to all states and Union Territories that no vaccine-related data should be shared without permission from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Uttarakhand has vaccinated a total of 2,58,7702 people, out of which 69,3504 have got the second shot. Meanwhile, with 463 new cases on Saturday, the tally of active cases rose to 5,021.

ONLY IN SEVEN DISTRICTS OF JHARKHAND

Ranchi: Jharkhand will limit supply of Covaxin only to seven districts, which had witnessed maximum number of Covid-19 cases, while Covishield will be made available to the remaining 22 districts. The decision was taken to expedite the vaccination process so that people living in the vulnerable districts get protection as soon as possible. Sources in the health department said a decision has been taken to limit Covaxin to comparatively urban districts like Bokaro, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Giridih, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh and Ranchi.

Positivity still high in western Maharashtra districts

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Covid-19 situation in Maharashtra is under control, but the western part of the state continues to remain a cause of concern, with many districts still reporting a positivity rate higher than 10 per cent.

According to the state health department data, Maharashtra's average positivity rate came down to five per cent last week (June 4-10).

However, the positivity rate in Kolhapur district is the highest at 15.85 per cent. Ratnagiri reported a positivity rate of 14.12 per cent while Raigarh had 13.13 per cent positivity. The positivity rate in Satara was 11.30 per cent, while it was 11.89 per cent in Sindhudurg and 11.11 per cent in Pune.

The lowest positivity of 0.83 per cent was reported in Gondia. The other districts to report low positivity rate were Chandrapur (0.8 per cent), Bhandara (1.11 per cent), Nanded (1.19 per cent) and Jalna (1.44 per cent).

Among big cities, Mumbai reported a positivity rate of 4.40 per cent while it was 11.11 per cent in Pune and 3.33 per cent in Nagpur.

Based on the positivity rate, the local administration has permitted reopening of the economy. In the districts reporting less than five per cent positivity rate, all non-essential shops and other establishments will function as usual. In the districts where the positivity rate is more than 10 per cent, the lockdown restrictions will continue, with non-essential establishments allowed to open between 7 am and 4 pm.

To prepare for a possible third wave, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has been holding meetings with village panchayat heads. "We cannot afford to lower our guard against this deadly virus. The danger is not yet over... Therefore, the Maharashtra government has prepared a scientific system for unlocking. The level-based strategies have to be strictly followed," he said.

FIRE AT INK FACTORY

A massive fire broke out in an ink manufacturing factory in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city in the wee hours of Saturday, in which three firemen suffered minor injuries, an official said

1 cr PERSON DAYS OF WORK GENERATED IN ASSAM, UNDER MGNREGA IN 2 MONTHS

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	28	Mumbai	30	27
Bhopal	35	24	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	39	29	Patna	31	24
Amritsar	33	24	Lucknow	37	26
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	34	26	Imphal	30	21
Srinagar	30	16	Chandigarh	31	22

ASSAM POLITICS

Crimes against women more under BJP: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

MORE cases of crimes against women were recorded in Assam between 2016 and 2021 when a BJP government led by Sarbananda Sonowal was in power than between 2011 and 2016 when the Tarun Gogoi-led Congress government was in power, according to the data shared by the Congress.

Tarun Gogoi

S Sonowal

Sharing the data from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and Dashboard 2020-21, the Congress said, if there were 82,957 cases of crimes against women recorded during Gogoi's last term (2011-16), there were 1,00,835 cases during Sonowal's term (2016-2021). The crimes against women included rape, trafficking, dowry deaths, cruelty by husband, kidnapping, molestation etc.

Overall, 4,46,119 criminal cases were recorded in the state between 2011 and 2016 compared to 5,97,095 between 2016 and 2021. In other words, there was an increase of 1,30,976 criminal cases during the five years of the BJP rule compared to the period of Congress rule.

"The report released on 4th June by NITI Aayog on SDG performance reveals that Assam ranked near the bottom among the large states of the country. The duties and the responsibilities of an elected government are to ensure safety and security which can well be meaningful when the criminal activities are down and controlled," Congress said.

"But unfortunately, in Assam, the criminal activities against women have gone up under the BJP government," the party said.

Himanta visits RSS HQ, meets Mohan Bhagwat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

ASSAM Chief Minister Hemanta Biswas Sarma met RSS chief Mohan Bhagawat on Friday in Nagpur.

"Honoured to have met Parampujyaniya Sarsanghchalak Sri @DrMohanBhagwat Ji at RSS Headquarters at Nagpur yesterday. It's been a matter of great privilege and pride to have his blessings and generous guidance. Reverence," Sarme tweeted. In another tweet, Sarma said, "Visited Dr Hedgewar Smarak Samiti, Nagpur. Blessed to have paid my homage to @RSSorg founding Sarsanghchalak Parampujyaniya Dr KB Hedgewar at his Smriti Mandir. Also paid respect to 2nd Sarsanghchalak Parampujyaniya Sri MS Golwalkar at his Smriti Chinha. Humbled!"

Sarma's meet with Bagwat ended speculations about a rift in his relationship with the RSS. Earlier, it was reported that Sarma's non-RSS background became a cause for concern as he was being considered for the post of CM. Sarma said his association with the RSS in general and Mohan Bhagwat in particular dates back to many years. Sarma also claimed that Bhagwat had visited his house before the state Assembly election.

New challenge for BJP as turncoats turn back

Recruits don't have the same ideological commitment to the party as those from the saffron brigade's strongholds

MANISH ANAND @New Delhi

MUKUL Roy's exit from the Bharatiya Janata Party and reports of more recent Trinamool Congress imports wanting to leave the party underline the challenges the saffron party faces in its attempt to expand its footprint outside its core base, the Hindi heartland.

Most of the areas outside the Hindi belt are not the ideal breeding ground of the Hindutva ideology that the BJP professes. Recruits to the BJP do not have the same ideological commitment to the party and its beliefs as those from the saffron brigade's stomping grounds.

Yet the need to expand beyond its core area is necessary. So the BJP since 2014 has coopted leaders and workers from others parties, leading to its expansion in the northeast even.

After the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP's soaring ambition to expand across the country was mirrored in the party's long list of 13 vice presidents consisting of four turncoats.

But as long as power or the prospect of power or the sharing of the perks of power is there, such recruits pose no problem and they remain glued to the party. Take away these three essentials and the glue begins to wane, giving birth to indiscipline and dissension. This reality check is what the BJP is experiencing not only in West Bengal but also in Tripura, Goa and to some extent in Uttar Pradesh.

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee felicitates Mukul Roy at an event in Kolkata as party chief Mamata Banerjee looks on | PTI

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb for the past one-and-a-half years has been fending off a challenge from the "scheming" of the turncoats who had joined the BJP from the Trinamool and the Congress. The Central BJP leadership has sought to buy peace for him.

In Goa, the BJP is staring at the prospect of internal rebellion while differences between chief minister Pramod Sawant and state health minister Vishwajit Rane, a recruit from the Congress, are hogging the limelight. Rane is long-time Congress chief minister Pratap Singh Rane's son.

In UP, the BJP made handsome gains in expanding the party's social constituency by importing leaders from the Bahujan Samajwadi Party in the run-up to the 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The likes of Dara Singh Chouhan, S P S Baghel and Swamy Prasad Mourya helped the BJP make quick gains among the most backward castes (MBCs), which had earlier been loyal to the BSP. While such leaders have maintained a low profile in the Yogi Adityanath dispensation, the BJP brass is well aware of the risks if they are not suitably rewarded.

But despite these challenges, there are indications have the BJP will not make any course corrections to woo turncoats. The saffron outfit is banking on them to strengthen its base in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, besides the traditional strongholds.

Another defector knocks TMC's door

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

LESS than 24 hours after Mukul Roy returned to the TMC, the saffron camp received another jolt on Saturday evening as BJP leader Rajib Banerjee, a former minister in Mamata's cabinet, met TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh.

The organisational foundation of the Bengal BJP, which largely rested on the shoulders of the turncoats from the Trinamool Congress, has been shaken to the core with many of them expressing a desire to return to their old party and a few even snapping all contacts with the saffron camp.

Some of the former TMC MLAs who joined the BJP have tendered their apologies to the Mamata Banerjee-led party. According to sources, many of them have started skipping organizational meetings called by state BJP president Dilip Ghosh. Rajib was among the state BJP members who criticized the demand from some in the party for the imposition of the president's rule in West Bengal.

After meeting Ghosh, Rajib said, "I oppose the demand for imposing presidential rule in Bengal. Because the ruling party has come to power with massive support. At the same time, I do not support the party's Hindutva rhetoric."

The crack in the saffron camp started widening rapidly after the party's poor show in the recent Assembly elections. The BJP bagged 77 seats out of 292, far less than the 200 predicted by the big guns in the party.

Soon after the election, former TMC MLAs Dipendu Biswas and Sonali Guha resigned from the BJP and said they wanted to return to the TMC.

With Roy's returning to the TMC, the ruling party is expecting an exodus from the BJP When Roy was in Trinamool Bhavan on Friday, BJP's state president Dilip Ghosh convened an organisation meeting in Bongaon, North 24 Parganas, which was skipped by three local MLAs and a local MP.

EXPRESS READ

Army dedicates Covid care facility to public

Srinagar: The Indian Army on Saturday dedicated a 50-bed Covid-19 facility set up in Srinagar to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to help the union territory prepare for an anticipated third wave of the pandemic, a defence spokesperson said here.

3 teens held for rape of minor girl in Raipur

Raipur: Two minors and a 19-year-old man were on Saturday detained for allegedly kidnapping and raping a 16-year-old girl in Chhattisgarh's Raipur. The victim narrated the incident to her mother, following which a complaint was lodged.

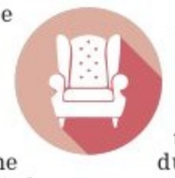
JD(U) leader calls on NDA to give allies respectable share in Union government

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

NATIONAL president of the Janata Dal (United) RCP Singh said on Saturday that his party, being a constituent of the NDA, deserves to get a birth if the Centre decides to expand the Union cabinet.

"Whenever there is an expansion, JD-U must get a share in the cabinet," Singh, who is considered to be the next to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the party, said.

Singh further demanded that every constituent of the NDA be given their due share. "We are a part of the NDA...all constituents deserve a respectable share in the Narendra Modi government," Singh told journalists. "Where is the question of demanding? It is a matter of understanding. It has to be natural," Singh told reporters.



Sources within the NDA said the Centre may expand the Union cabinet as the ruling BJP wants to bring in some allies.

According to them, the JD-U may be given two berths in the Union cabinet in view of the forthcoming election in Uttar Pradesh. In the eastern part of the state, Kurmi voters are in a strong position. The BJP, after its dismal performance in West Bengal, is also said to be considering the inclusion of JD-U in the Union cabinet, so that JD-U may not contest against the BJP in Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

There is speculation within the NDA that two ministries —the Consumer Affair, Food and Public Distribution and the Commerce and Industry Ministry—which are currently held by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal as additional charges, may go to the JD-U.

The JD(U) has 16 MPs in the Lok Sabha and five in Rajya Sabha.

DRAWING IRE

Twitter sends notices to Manjul, others

UNNAMED law enforcement agencies have asked Twitter to take down certain tweets of popular cartoonist Manjul, fact-checking website *Alt News* co-founder Mohammed Zubair and others, over alleged violation of law.

Manjul, Zubair and retired IAS officer Surya Pratap Singh have shared screenshots of the notice sent by the microblogging platform on their Twitter handles over the last few days. Sources said the Ministry of Electronics and IT was not involved in sending these legal requests to Twitter. It wasn't clear which agencies have flagged these tweets by these users and for what violations.

Meanwhile, the screenshot shared by Manjul showed Twitter as saying: "In the interest of transparency, we are writing to inform you that Twitter has received a request from Indian law enforcement regarding your Twitter account, that claims the ... content violates the law(s) of India".

It further stated that Twitter has "not taken any action on the reported content at this time as a result of this request". Twitter, in its notice, said it is the company's policy to notify users if it receives a legal request from an authorised entity to remove content from their account. Twitter further informed the account holders that while the platform is unable to provide legal advice, "we want you to have an opportunity to evaluate the request and, if you wish, take appropriate action to protect your interests". *PTI*

MUMBAI DOWNPOUR

Heavy rains, coupled with thunderstorm and strong winds, lashed Mumbai and its suburbs on Saturday

Train services between Dadar and Kurla stations on the main line were suspended after the water rose above the track

Commuters wade through a waterlogged street in Santacruz-Chembur Link Road in Mumbai on Saturday | PTI

IMA passouts told to be ready for modern warfare

WESTERN Command GOC-in-C Lt Gen R P Singh on Saturday asked passing out gentlemen cadets at the IMA to keep evolving constantly to handle the challenges of modern warfare.

"Conventional warfare has transformed under the influence of disruptive technologies. Modern warfare is not just simple clash between military powers but it is fluid, amorphous, non-contact and asymmetric," Singh said addressing the cadets at the Indian Military Academy's (IMA) historic drill square after a colourful passing out parade (POP).

"In the challenging times like these you have to keep your leadership dynamic, contemporary and constantly evolving," he added. "You are stepping into an era of blurring definition of threats, expanding domains of conflict and an interplay of multi-polar complexities. The external and internal challenges that our nation faces from adversarial forces are only set to increase as we rise to take our destined place in the new global order," the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) said.

Cadets celebrate after their passing out parade at the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun on Saturday | PTI

Describing the IMA as standing tall among world's military training establishments, Singh said the high standards of training and discipline of the gentlemen cadets was reflected in their "immaculate" drill movements. *PTI*

YouTuber Paras Singh gets bail in racial slur case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

YOUTUBER Paras Singh, who was arrested last month for making a racial comment against Arunachal Pradesh MLA, Ninong Ering, was on Saturday granted bail.

The Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Itanagar granted him bail on a personal bond of Rs 10,000. It ordered him not to leave the country and stay avoid interfering with the probe against him.

The investigation is almost over and all necessary statements have been recorded by the police, Public Prosecutor Rotom Vijay said. Around a dozen, FIRs have been filed against the 22-year-old in different parts of the state. In a video posted on YouTube, he had commented that Ering does not look like an Indian. He claimed the "state is a part of China". After the comments had triggered outrage in the Northeast, Singh was arrested in Ludhiana by a Special Investigating Team (SIT) of Arunachal Police and brought to Itanagar on May 27.

He told the SIT that he had made the controversial video to gain maximum views and increase his income from YouTube.

Jaipur gloomy as Padma Shri Dr Panagariya dies

A pall of gloom descended over Jaipur on Friday as one of India's top neurologists Dr Ashok Panagariya passed away. For the past several weeks Panagariya had been battling post-Covid complications and was on ventilator support. His lungs were badly damaged by the infection. After struggling for 48 days, the seventy-one-year-old Dr Panagariya lost the battle with Covid on Friday afternoon. Besides treating millions of patients over the past four decades, Dr Panagariya also won several prestigious awards for his services like the B C Roy award in 2002 and the Padam Shri Award in 2014. Among the eminent people who condoled his death are PM Narendra Modi and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

JAIPUR DIARY

Alwar boy runs 93 km in nine and a half hours

Despite the searing heat of June, Jitendra Singh Prajapat, a 21-year-old youth from Mangolaki village in Rajasthan's Alwar district recently completed a 93-km run. Jitendra ran from Khedli to Balaji Mor and back in just nine and a half hours. He started the run on Monday at 6 pm from Khedli town. To encourage him, many people kept him company on motorbikes and other vehicles. During the run, Jitendra made only two very brief stops to use the toilet. He even drank water while running. Jitendra started running every day about four years ago to join the Army. Initially, he used to run five to seven km daily. But, gradually he started running 30 to 40 km each day. Now, his dream is to win a medal at the Mumbai Tata Full Marathon.

Sood funds treatment of Jalore man's daughter

Actor Sonu Sood, known as the "real hero of India", continues to be busy with charitable activities. Recently, he helped arrange funds for the treatment of a daily-wage labourer's daughter in Rajasthan's Jalore district. The girl, born on June 1, has a hole in her heart, which called for an urgent operation. Unable to afford the cost of the procedure, the family got in touch with Sood through social media. As soon as he came to know about it, he sent his representative Hitesh Jain to Jalore and made necessary arrangements for the treatment.

Free entrance coaching for eligible students

Students who cannot afford to pay for coaching classes to crack entrance and competitive exams will now get help from the Rajasthan government. Under the 'Mukhyamantri Anuprati Coaching Yojana', announced by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, free coaching will be provided to students from families whose annual income is below Rs 8 lakhs. Candidates will be selected based on their academic performance in classes 10 and 12. According to sources, the government aims to ensure that at least 50% of the scheme's beneficiaries are girl students.

7 killed as separate bombs hit two minivans in a mostly Shiite neighbourhood in Afghan capital of Kabul on Saturday

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	35	23	TDS	Los Angeles	28	16	SNY
Colombo	29	26	TDS	Melbourne	14	8	LC
Dhaka	31	26	TDS	Moscow	24	15	TDS
Dubai	39	30	SNY	New York	23	18	LC
Houston	35	25	TDS	Singapore	31	27	TDS
Istanbul	26	17	SNY	Toronto	23	16	LC
London	29	15	SNY	Washington	29	20	LC

G7 unveils plans to battle future pandemics, take on China

Biden & fellow leaders address 'strategic competition' with Beijing on 2nd day of summit

CARBIS BAY (UK)

THE G7 on Saturday unveiled US-led plans to counter China in infrastructure funding for poorer nations, and a new accord to battle future pandemics, as the elite group advertised Western unity at its first in-person summit since 2019.

President Joe Biden is touting a message of revived US leadership on his first foreign tour, declaring "America is back" after the tumultuous administration of Donald Trump. "We're on the same page," Biden told reporters as he met French President Emmanuel Macron on the summit sidelines, pushing to rally the West against a resurgent China and recalcitrant Russia.

Asked if other G7 leaders agreed with him about a US diplomatic renaissance, Biden pointed to Macron, who replied: "Definitely." Promising to "collectively catalyse" hundreds of billions of infrastructure investment for low-and middle-income countries, the G7 leaders said they would offer a "values-driven, high-standard and transparent" partnership.

Their "Build Back Better World" (B3W) project is aimed squarely at competing with China's trillion-dollar Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, which has been widely criticised for saddling small countries with unmanageable debt but has included even G7 member Italy since launching in 2013. "This is not just about confronting or taking on China," a senior US official said. "This is about providing an affirmative, positive alternative vision for the world." German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose nation has huge investments in China, called it an "important initiative" that was much-needed in infrastructure-poor Africa. Britain, meanwhile, hailed G7 agreement on the "Carbis Bay Declaration" — a series of commitments to curb future pandemics after Covid-19 wrecked economies and claimed millions of lives around the world. The collective steps include slashing the time taken to develop and license vaccines, treatments and diagnostics for any future disease to under 100 days, while reinforcing global surveillance networks. The G7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — will formally publish the pact on Sunday, alongside its final summit communique containing further details on the B3W. The US official said Biden wanted "concrete action" on the forced labour accusations, calling them "an affront to human dignity, and an egregious example of China's unfair economic competition". China denies allegations that it is waging "genocide" by forcing up to one million Uyghurs and people from other ethnic-Turkic minorities into internment camps in the region of Xinjiang. *AFP*

Activists of aid charity Oxfam wear papier mache heads depicting G7 leaders during a protest at Swanpool Beach near Falmouth, amid the G7 summit, in Cornwall, south-west England. Hundreds of environmental campaigners also took to the Cornish seaside on Saturday demanding G7 leaders to do far more against climate change and biodiversity loss | AFP

WHO WELCOMES HEALTH AGREEMENT

World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, criticised in some quarters for being too accommodating towards China where the coronavirus originated, welcomed the health pact of G7 nations. He said the UN agency would examine a British proposal to create a "Global Pandemic Radar" to send early warnings of future outbreaks. However, aid charity Oxfam said the declaration "does nothing to address the fundamental problems that are preventing vaccines being accessible to the vast majority of humanity".

Saudi Arabia limits Hajj to 60K within kingdom

DUBAI

SAUDI Arabia announced on Saturday that this year's hajj pilgrimage will be limited to no more than 60,000 people, all of them from within the kingdom, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The announcement by the kingdom comes after it ran an incredibly pared-down pilgrimage last year over the virus, but still allowed a small number of the faithful to take part in the annual ceremony.

A statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted the kingdom's Hajj and Umrah Ministry making the announcement. It said this year's hajj, which will begin in mid-July, will be limited to those ages 18 to 65. Those taking part must be vaccinated as well, the ministry said.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is honoured to host pilgrims every year, confirms that this arrangement comes out of its constant concern for the health, safety and security of pilgrims as well as the safety of their countries," the statement said. Only up to 10,000 Muslims took part in the hajj in July last year, a far cry from the 2.5 million who participated in the five-day annual pilgrimage in 2019 before the pandemic.

"In light of what the whole world is witnessing with the coronavirus pandemic... and the emergence of new variants, the relevant authorities have continued to monitor the global health situation," the health ministry said.

Agencies

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune (centre) arrives with his wife at a polling station in Bouchaoui, on the western outskirts of Algeria's capital Algiers, on Saturday during the 2021 parliamentary elections | AFP

Algeria votes amid 'repression' of protest movement

ALGIERS

ALGERIA voted on Saturday in a parliamentary election overshadowed by a crackdown on a long-running protest movement that has campaigned for a mass boycott. Pro-government parties urged a big turnout for the "crucial vote" hoping to restore stability after two years of turmoil since the ouster of veteran president Abdelaziz Bouteflika under pressure from the protests.

The protest movement, which had held weekly demonstrations for reform until they were effectively banned last month, has denounced the election as a "sham" that betrays the hopes of the hundreds of thousands of Algerians who forced Bouteflika from power. Seven leading protest movement figures were arrested ahead of polling day while police deployed heavily in the capital Algiers to preempt any attempt to rally.

Turnout at 1pm stood at merely 10 percent, the head of the electoral commission Mohamed Chorfi said. The poll results not expected for days.

Authorities are hoping for a solid turnout, but the two previous national votes since Bouteflika stepped down -- a presidential election and a constitutional referendum -- both saw record low voting after the protest movement urged a boycott. President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who was elected on an official turnout of less than 40 in late 2019, put a brave face on the likely low legislative turnout. *AFP*

Attacker wounds 13 in Texas shooting, escapes

AUSTIN (US)

AN unidentified person opened fire in a busy entertainment district in downtown Austin in Texas early on Saturday, wounding 13 people, including two critically, before getting away, authorities said.

Investigators were looking into what sparked the shooting and weren't able to get a detailed description of the shooter, but they believe it was a man, Police Chief Joseph Chacon said at a 4am news conference. He said investigators were examining surveillance video and other evidence, and he asked anyone with information about the shooting to contact the police. The gunfire erupted just before 1.30am along 6th Street, a popular area filled with bars and restaurants. At the time, the street was barricaded to keep out vehicle traffic, Chacon said. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that I, the undersigned have lost the Original registered Sale Deed dated 29.06.1981, registered as document No.1909/1981-82, Volume No.3495, at Pages 128-133, of Book–I, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, in respect of the immovable property bearing Khaneshumari No.25, Carved out of Sy.No.15/1, of Lingarajapuram, Situated at **Lingarajapuram Village, Kasaba Hobli,** Bangalore North Taluk, Now Coming within the Limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore and bearing Corporation No.25, (old No.1301/657/25) and the area now known as Shamanna Layout).

I have also lodge a online complaint regarding the loss of the aforesaid original document, vide Lost Report No. 099431/2020-21, dated. 27.04.2021.

Any person finding the said original Sale Deed, may kindly return the same to me at the below given address.

YASHODA R. NANDA,
Wife of K.Ramanand, No.391,
Ragavendra Nagar, 2nd Cross,
HBR Layout, Bangalore : 560 043
Phone No.9845215566

Bangalore Dated : 13.06.2021

QuoteExpress

GETTING INFORMATION OFF THE INTERNET IS LIKE TAKING A DRINK FROM A FIRE HYDRANT

MITCHELL KAPOR

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

ANNAPOORNESHWARI NAGAR BRANCH
No.2, Sri Kamala, 60 feet Road, 15th Cross, 2nd Main, Health Layout, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Nagarabhavi 2nd stage, Bangalore 560091
Ph: 080-23188779
Mail Id: bm2131@unionbankofindia.com

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with in the branches mentioned herein below- classified as NPA

We have to inform you that you whose Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, ANNAPOORNESHWARI NAGAR Branch**, offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below. The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) Gangadhar Rao, 2) Vatsala N, Both are R/at : No.489, 3rd Cross, SMV Layout, 8th Block, Near Bala Vikas School, Gidhadakonenahalli, Bangalore 560042

Name of Facility Amount Due

Sl No	Facility/ Loan	Limits	Outstanding as on 30.04.2021
1	HLGEN (HOUSING LOAN) 213130100015179	38.60 Lakhs	Rs.40,72,409/-

Amount Outstanding : A/c No 213130100015179 (HLGEN (HOUSING LOAN)), of **Rs.40,72,409/-** (Rupees Forty Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred Nine only) with subsequent interest as per the agrement (s).

NPA Date: 30.04.2021 **Demand Date : 11.05.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets:
Flat No. 103, measuring 995 sq.fts (with 248 sq.ft undivided share in the land) Ground floor, in "Samtrupti Enclave", constructed on the land bearing site No. 195, 196, 223, 224, at Sy. No. 31, 32/1, BBMP Khata No. 2561/2047/4/31, 32/1, 35/224, 223, 195, 196 situated at Ward No. 130, Padma Updyaya Layout, Nagadevanahalli Village, Bangalore, Karnataka.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: 1) M/S SRI BHAIRAVESHWARA ENTERPRISES, No.977, 4th Main, Opp: Government Hospital Shankar Nag Bus stand, Kamala Nagar, Bangalore-560079. 2) Mr. Gangadhar.H (Propritor). No. 1104, 1st Main Road, Opp: Shankar Nag Bus Stand, Kamalanagar, Bangalore-560079. 3) Thimmamma, W/o Shivanna, No. 1096, 2nd Cross, Near Shanimahathma Temple, Kamalanagar, NGOS Colony, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560079.

Name of Facility Amount Due

Sl No	Facility/ Loan	Limits	Outstanding as on 31.05.2021
1	SOD 213131100000070	10,25,000/-	Rs.10,58,371.46/-

Amount Outstanding : A/c No 213131100000070 (SOD), of **Rs.10,58,371.46/-** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Seventy One and Forty Six Paisa only) with subsequent interest as per the agrement (s).

NPA Date: 31.05.2021 **Demand Date : 09.06.2021**

Description Of The Secured Assets:
Mortgage property of residential land and building at southern portion of site no.1087, municipal no-1087/1, pid no-16/54/1087/1, behind jagadguru high school, saneguravanahalli village, yeshwanthpura hobli, Bangalore. Land area : 240 sft, Building ground floor : 200 sft, First floor : 200 ft.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 12.06.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARAVINDA G. @ ARVINDA G. @ ARVINDA G. REDDY,** S/o. T. Gopala Reddy, Aged about 38 years, residing at No. 03, 'Aakanksha', 3rd Cross, Kodigehalli Main Road, Near Sea College, Sri. Sathya Sai Baba Layout, Basavanpura, K.R. Puram, Bangalore - 560 036, have changed my name from **ARAVINDA G. @ ARVINDA G. @ ARVINDA G. REDDY** to **ARRAVHIND G. REDDY** vide affidavit dated 09.06.2021 sworn before Advocate & Notary Chandrashekaraiah S., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, the undersigned **ANITHA KOKADAN RAPHAIL** (New Name), previously called **ANITHA KOKADAN RAPHAI**, (Old Name), Finance and Account professional, resident of No: 37, 10th Cross, 2nd Block, Akshay Nagar, Bangalore – 560016, Karnataka, India do hereby solemnly declare and states that I have changed my name from **ANITHA KOKADAN RAPHAI** to **ANITHA KOKADAN RAPHAIL** by swearing to an affidavit in front of Notary public Mr. K.B.Sadha Shivappa on 12/06/2021 for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ROHINI KRISHNAGOWDA,** residing at # 496, 1st Cross, Jayanagar, Kolar-563 101, Karnataka State, Camp at Bengaluru have changed the name of my minor daughter from **AADHVI** to **AADHVI .M,** vide affidavit dated 08/06/2021, sworn before Notary **H.G. Venkataramu,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JAYA**, D/o Dinesh Kumar R/o SMQ 597/6, 7th Camp, Air Force Station, Jalahalli East, Bangalore - 560014, Karnataka, have changed my name from **JAYA** to **JAYA BHARTI**, vide affidavit no.IN-KA20451921523784T dated 11.06.2021 at Bangalore.

brides

Bride Wanted

Calicut Sindhi businessman, 32 years/ 165 cms, needs bride pure Vegetarian, homemaker, Cast no bar.

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

START EXPORT BUSINESS without investment. Earn monthly lakh. SMS / whatsapp Name address 98421 16924. CL00425717

TATA Capital Financial Services Limited

Registered Office Address:- 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013. **Branch Office Address:-** D.No.62, Richmond Road, 2nd Floor, Prestige Corniche, Above Sapphire Toys, Near Life Style, Bangalore-560025.

Public Notice - Intimation Cum Sale Notice
Intimation to Remove Movable Assets from Secured Property

Notice is hereby given to the public that **Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd.(TCFSL),** is a Securitization and Asset Reconstruction Company registered with the Reserve Bank of India under the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act). Authorized Officer of **TCFSL**, in exercise of powers conferred under SARFAESI Act, has already sold the below mentioned Immovable Property/Secured Asset in public auction for recovery of outstanding dues of respective borrowers against loan accounts. **TCFSL** has handed over the possession of secured property to auction-purchaser.

At the time of taking possession of said properties, some movable items ("Household Goods/Articles" in particular) were found by Authorised Officer in the secured premises. We have shifted these movable items/articles to our nearest stock yard premises and safe guarding these articles since from more than 2 years & above. Even after many notices sent to borrowers/co-borrowers by RPAD/ Email/WhatsApp, at all the available addresses intimating them to collect/remove moveable items lying in secured properties at the earliest; no representation is made from their sides till date for same. Therefore, through this notice, we hereby give final intimation to borrower/co-borrower to take possession of moveable items lying inside the mortgaged properties in presence and with consent of Authorised Officer of **TCFSL** by furnishing required documentary proof **on or before June 29, 2021.** Failing this, **TCFSL** shall be compelled to dispose of the said movable items through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** as per below schedule and no claim from any party pertaining to any loss or damages will be accepted after the sale is executed.

Account No.	Name of Borrower/Co-borrower and Address of Secured Property	Movable Assets Details	Auction Date, Time & Place	Reserve Price & EMD Amount
5389240	**Mr. B.Sridhar (Borrower) & Mrs.Usha.P (Co-Borrower),** D.No.4321, 1st Cross, 14th Main Road, Subramanya Nagar, Sriramapuram, Bangalore, Karnataka-560021. **And also Address at:** R/o D.No.1191, 6th Main, 'A' Block, Balaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010. **And also Address at: Lalitha Graphics,** # 2013, 7th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010. **Schedule of Property(Sold):-** All that piece of the property with RCC building having covered are measuring 1350 Sq.ft, bearing property site No 4321 situated in Rajaji Nagar II Stage extension are presently with in limit of BBMP and bounded by (morefully describedin sale deed dated December 3,1990 and document No.4063), **bounded by: North by:** Site No.4332, **East:** 4320, **West:** Site No.4322, **South:** Road.	Household goods list of which is available with TCFSL Bangalore Branch office at the address given below.	**30-June-2021 02:00 PM TCFSL Bangalore Branch office at the address given below.**	**Rs.23,000/- (RP) (Rupees Twenty Three Thousand Only) and EMD Amount Rs.2,300/-**

Parties interested in buying the said movable goods may submit their offer in a sealed cover along with Demand Draft of EMD amount upto 2 hours prior to auction time. Demand Draft is to be made **"Payable at Bangalore"** in the name shown in **"Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd., Bangalore Branch"** column above. Sealed covers would be opened at TCFSLBangalore branch office on auction date & time mentioned above for inter se bidding.

Place: Bangalore, Date: 13-06-2021 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Tata Capital Financial Services Ltd.**

ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायती राज विभाग
निदेशालय, स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (ग्रामीण)
(पंचायती राज)

NIB No.: F 4( )/PRD/SBMG/Store/PMU/2021/2142 Dated: 04/06/2021

NOTICE INVITING E-Bids - 01/2021-22

E -Bids costing Rs. 326.25 Lac Are Invited Up To 3.00 PM Of 24.06.2021 For SELECTION OF A PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) UNDER SBMG, RAJASTHAN. Details of **NIB 01/2021-22** may be seen in the bidding documents at our office or at website of state procurement portal **http://sppp.raj.nic.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there.

Note:- If any amendment is carried out in the tender specifications and terms & conditions following pre-bid meeting, the same will be uploaded on the departmental website **http://sppp.raj.nic.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Incase any inconvenience is felt, please contact on phone number i.e. 0141- 2204802.

(UBN No) PAN 2122 SLOB00001 **Director**
DIPR/C/5367/2021 **Swachh Bharat Mission (G)**

INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES (ILBS)

ilbs **"CAREER OPPORTUNITIES"**
Faculty & Non Faculty posts
(ILBS/Careers/3/21)

Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) is an autonomous super-specialty Institute of excellence under GNCT of Delhi **and a Deemed-to-be-University by the GOI. Its vision is to be a global leader** by becoming a beacon of patient care, teaching and research in the field of Liver, Pancreatobiliary, Renal, Oncology and Organ Transplantation. All appointments shall be on "contract basis" and will initially be for a period of "four years" and can be extended based on performance. In its search for the best talent, ILBS invites applications for the following positions:

(A)	**Applications invited for UR(Unreserved), SC, ST, OBC & EWS Posts (Including Backlog)**	
No.	**Name of Post**	**Number of Posts**
1.	Professor (Anaesthesia)	1-UR
2.	Professor (Nephrology)	1-UR
3.	Professor (Interventional Radiology)	1-UR
4.	Professor (Medical Biostatistics)	1-UR
5.	Additional Professor (Anaesthesia)	1-UR
6.	Additional Professor (Surgical Hepatology) #	1-UR
7.	Associate Professor (Radiology)	1-UR
8.	Associate Professor (Nephrology)	1-UR
9.	Associate Professor (Renal Transplant)	1-UR
10.	Associate Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR
11.	Associate Professor (Radiation Oncology)	1-UR
12.	Assistant Professor (Radiology)	1-UR, 1-OBC
13.	Assistant Professor (Transplant Hepatology)	2-UR, 1-OBC
14.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Nutrition) Medical	1-UR
15.	Assistant Professor (Nephrology)	1-UR
16.	Assistant Professor (Medical Oncology)	1-UR
17.	Assistant Professor (Neurology)	1-UR
18.	Assistant Professor (Pulmonary Medicine)	1-UR
19.	Assistant Professor (Clinical Research/Epidemiology)	1-UR
20.	Assistant Professor (Liver Transplant Surgery)	1-UR
21.	Assistant Professor (Pediatric Liver Transplant Surgery)	1-UR
22.	Consultant (Nephrology) Grade IV	1-UR
23.	Consultant (Cardiology) Grade III, IV	2-UR
24.	Consultant (Radiology) Grade III, IV	2-UR
25.	Consultant (Renal Transplant) Grade I & II	2-UR
26.	Sr. Resident (* Hepatology - 04, Transfusion Medicine - 01, Medical Oncology - 01, Radiation Oncology – 01, Cardiology – 01, Neurology – 01, Biochemistry – 01, Nephrology -01)	05-UR, 3-OBC, 01-EWS, 01-SC, 1-ST
27.	Senior Fellow (Non Medical) Virology	1-UR
28.	Assistant Lab Manager	1-UR
29.	Casualty Medical Officer	1-OBC
30.	Resident Medical Officer	3-UR, 3-OBC, 1-SC, 1-EWS
31.	Head Operations (Medical)	1-UR
32.	Manager (Nursing)	1-UR
33.	Manager (Purchase)	1-UR
34.	Deputy Manager (Purchase)	1-UR
35.	Deputy Manager (Hospitality)	1-UR
36.	Sr. Executive (Purchase)	1-UR, 1-OBC
37.	Executive (Store)	1-UR
38.	Floor Coordinator	4-UR, 1-OBC
39.	Executive (Security & Fire)	1-UR
40.	Transplant Coordinator	1-UR, 1-OBC
41.	Nutritionist	1-UR
42.	Junior Nutritionist	1-UR, 1-OBC
43.	Junior Executive (Finance & Accounts)	1-OBC
(B)	**SPECIAL DRIVE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**	
44.	Associate Professor (Virology)	1-OH
45.	Assistant Professor (Surgical Hepatology)	1-OH
46.	Senior Resident (Radiology-01, Hepatology -01, Nephrology -01)	3-OH
47.	Junior Resident	2-OH
48.	Resident Medical Officer	1-OH
49.	Assistant Manager Nurse	1-OH
50.	Nurse/Junior Nurse	3-OH
51.	Executive Nurse	2-OH
52.	Junior Executive Nurse	3-OH

Surgical Hepatology be read as HPB Surgery. Last Date: **20th July, 2021**. For details, please visit **http://www.ilbs.in**

DIP/Shabdarth/0096/21-22 Dy. **Head (HR)**

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20% That's how much reduction in expenditure, like overtime allowance, the government has asked all ministries to target in 2012-22

Traders lambast monopoly power of big tech firms

Traders body CAIT seeks investigation into alleged malpractices of e-commerce firms

BISMAH MALIK @Bengaluru

BIG Tech is under fire. Companies including Amazon, Google and Facebook which have been bullish on India —the world's second largest internet market with cheapest data rates and 500 million smartphone users —are facing the heat from traders, who have vowed to write to respective administrations in the states to investigate the alleged malpractices of e-commerce giants.

The move comes a day after India's competition watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) allowed the Karnataka High Court to continue its investigation of business models of Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart. Confederation Of All India Traders, which represents eight crore small retailers in the country, said on Saturday that nearly 50,000 mobile retail shops have shut all due to e-commerce platform's preferential treatment of sellers, colluding with mobile manufacturers for exclusive launches on their platforms, which harms the business interests of small traders. "Amazon is claiming to create lakhs of jobs and promoting small traders. I challenge them to come up with the list of top 10 sellers who have benefitted from their platform during the last eight years of their existence in India. These sellers have special agreements with the e-commerce firms or are simply their subsidiaries, which basically violates India's existing laws," CAIT's General Secretary Praveen Khandelwal said in a statement.

CAIT had earlier accused e-commerce majors of violating Section 3 of Competition Act as well as Foreign Direct Investment rules. Khandelwal had submitted his concerns before Union commerce minister Piyush Giyal who directed the Enforcement Directorate to investigate whether Amazon and Flipkart are circumventing the country's FDI and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

Meanwhile, Amazon has aggressively been promoting itself as a platform of small businesses. Amazon India head, Amit Agarwal said on Friday that the company remains committed to digitize one crore. SMBs (including 10 lakh local stores), enabling $10 billion in exports, and creating 20 lakh jobs by 2025. It is not just e-commerce that Amazon is focussed on. Jeff Bezos has also eyed India's payments, insurance, food delivery, online pharmacy and even offline retail markets through various investments throught its subsidiaries in the last couple of years.

Outside India

In the US, another crucial market of Big Tech, the Congress has proposed a new legislation that seeks to break big firms into smaller subsidiaries or shed their private –label businesses to prevent the digital monopoly.

WHATSAPP VS GOVERNMENT OVER NEW IT RULES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

The government's new rules for social media mandates instant messaging apps to trace the origin of a message, if required by the authorities by law. However, Facebook-owned WhatsApp, which had consistently opposed diluting encryption of its platform, has taken the government to court, saying that the new rules violate the right to privacy of Indian users.

NEWSCOPE

IT's TOUGH TO PUT THE CYBER GENIE BACK INTO THE BOTTLE

GURBIR SINGH

THE way things were panning out between Twitter and the Union government, it seemed we were going the Nigeria route. A couple of days ago, the Nigerian government took down the popular social media site because an 'offensive' tweet by President Muhammed Buhari had been deleted. Dictators are weird!

Something similar happened last month in India. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra's tweet about a Congress 'toolkit' "defaming the government's performance" (or lack of it) on the Covid havoc, was tagged by Twitter as 'manipulated media'. The Ministry of Electronics & IT (Meity) jumped to Patra's defense. A threatening posse of Delhi policemen also landed at the Gurugram office of the company.

Twitter was given a 'final notice' for not adhering to the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines And Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 by not appointing compliance officers.

On May 27, Twitter had accused the Indian government of "dangerous overreach that is inconsistent with open, democratic principles." The government in turn warned of "consequences". The situation was heading dangerously in the Nigerian direction, but Twitter pulled back just in time. The company has appointed a nodal compliance person and a resident grievance officer, and will be briefing the government on its 'compliance' in a week's time.

Tables have turned on social media

The immediate crisis seems to have blown over, but the deeper issues remain. Internet and digital platforms have emerged over the last 2 decades as powerful tools of e-commerce and communication. Social media has opened up the floodgates of creativity and all the problems that come with it.

The old, legacy media — print and broadcasting — is too structured, and like all brick-and-mortar entities open to interference from government and private owners. In comparison, digital platforms are inexpensive and have become the 'voice of the voiceless'. The government in India, and everywhere else, has not been too happy with media and communication shifting online. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) through its web of controls - the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and such like - has kept a tight leash on print publishers and broadcast groups. Digital publishing, on the other hand, has been more elusive as it does not respect borders; nor does it need clunky physical hubs to operate from.

The Vajpayee government in 2000 promulgated the Indian Technology Act and the Intermediary Guidelines Rules in 2011. But these were more to set up some sort of electronic governance and to detect cyber crime. Digital 'intermediaries' remained largely untouched.

One reason for social media having escaped the long arm of the censors for so long is because it had been weaponized by the right-wing to help the BJP juggernaut win elections and stay in power. All this has been well documented by Swati Chaturvedi, in her famous book 'I Am a Troll: Inside the Secret World of the BJP's Digital Army'. The author, who once worked for the BJP, exposed how the Sangh Parivar used volunteers and paid employees to "constantly peddle hate tweets and conspiracy theories and slander journalists".

The tables have lately turned and the pro-establishment trolls are now on the run. Demonetization in 2017, the anti-CAA movement in 2019, and now, the mismanagement of the Covid-19 pandemic has created a backlash, changing the balance of forces on social media. The government has been taking heavy artillery from everyone, from Greta Thunberg and Rihanna, to armies of students.

The challenge to the new Code

Now that the shoe is on the other foot, there is a scramble to implement the Information Technology Intermediary Guidelines and to keep the likes of Twitter at bay. Isn't it significant that the Indian version of Twitter, Koo, founded in March last year by a couple of Bengaluru techies, and promoted by government ministers, has now been welcomed with open arms by Nigerian President Muhammed Buhari?

The Intermediary Guidelines are presented as a neutral self-regulating regime for OTT platforms and social and news media sites. In fact, they are aimed at crippling free communication. The new Code prohibits these platforms from relaying any information 'that is contrary to societal norms, immoral, or defamatory' and requires them to block such information within 36 hours of being called out by a government or court order.

'The intermediary shall not publish any information that is against the interests, unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the state.' The powers to block content are draconian. The Guidelines say in an emergency, authorized officers may investigate digital media material and the Secretary, Ministry of I&B, may issue an interim order blocking the use of such content.

The new rules require the 'intermediary' to reveal, if demanded by the government, 'the first originator of information'. There goes WhatsApp's 'end-to-end encryption'! Which is why WhatsApp has moved the Delhi High Court against the new Code as it tramples on the fundamental right of privacy.

Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna too has challenged the constitutional validity of the new IT rules in the Madras high court, arguing that they are 'illegal' and travel beyond the Information Technology Act, 2000. Cyberspace is a difficult terrain to control, and the government may soon discover that the genie, once out in the open, cannot be forced back in the bottle.

Gautam Adani forays into cement biz, sets up new wholly-owned subsidiary

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

GAUTAM Adani-owned Adani Group is all set to enter the cement sector. The company in a stock exchange filing has said that it has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary called Adani Cement Industries Limited (ACIL) on 11 June 2021.

The Gujarat-based company has been incorporated with an authorised capital of ₹10 lakh and paid-up capital of ₹5 lakh. The company is yet to start its operations. As per the stock exchange filing ACIL will be in the business as manufacturers, producers, processors of all types of cements.

India is the world's second largest cement producer and consumer with a total production capacity of 540 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) in 2020. It has large players like Ultra Tech, Shree Cement, Ambuja Cement, ACC and a whole host of regional cement players. Despite a 0-12 per cent slowdown in demand in 2020, and a likely 5-6 per cent correction in 2021 due to covid-related restrictions on economic activities, the sector outlook is robust given the government's focus on large-scale infrastructure projects and affordable housing. "We remain bullish on the sector's prospects, given the presence of demand and margin tailwinds. We expect demand to accelerate in FY22 onwards, boosting utilisation and pricing power," says a recent HDFC Securities report.

Adani Group owns a range of businesses including port, power, airports, edible oil as well as gas and electricity distribution. Over the last couple of years, the group has been on an acquisition spree consolidating its position in respective sectors — be it power, ports, gas and electricity distribution, airports, etc.

Experts say Adani's entry might see consolidation in the sector, and given the past record of Adani group in other sectors, it might like to grow inorganically by acquiring regional cement players.

Meanwhile, responding to media reports that it is planning to hive off its airport business and go for listing of the airport business, Adani group has said that as of now there is no such development.

EXPRESS READ

PhonePe goes to Sebi against Ventureast

Bengaluru: PhonePe has filed a complaint against Ventureast Proactive Fund II (VPF), an AIF operating out of India, with markets regulator Sebi over its planned acquisition of OSLabs. "The complaint relates to multiple violations of Sebi's code of conduct in relation to VPF's recent side dealings with Affle which are deliberate bad faith attempt to scuttle OSLabs," PhonePe said.

DLF sales booking up 24% at ₹3,084 cr

New Delhi: Realty major DLF sold residential properties worth ₹3,084 crore in the last financial year, registering a growth of 24 per cent from 2019-20. The company said it saw better demand for completed and new inventories despite the pandemic. The company said the growth drivers like affordable housing and consumer sentiments remain fundamentally in place.

Diesel crosses ₹100 per litre mark in Rajasthan

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

DIESEL, the fuel of choice for India's road freight sector, crossed the ₹100 per litre mark in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district on Saturday, while Karnataka became the seventh state to have petrol retailing at above the ₹100 level.

Petrol diesel prices have been breaking all-time records on a nearly day-to-day basis over the previous month and if Goldman Sachs analysts are to be believed, Indian consumers are unlikely to get any relief, since crude oil rates are expected to continue rising over the summer to as much as $80 per barrel. Brent crude currently trades in the $71-72 per barrel range.

The impetus for diesel to breach the ₹100 mark was given by Saturday's price hike by government oil marketing companies. Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by 27 paise per litre and 29 paise respectively. This increase was the 23rd such instance since May began and prices have risen by ₹5.72 per litre for petrol and ₹6.25 a litre for diesel during this time.

After the latest hike, petrol prices in Delhi stand at ₹96.12 a litre and diesel at ₹86.98 per litre. In Sri Ganganagar, prices stood at ₹107.22 a litre for petrol and ₹100.05 for diesel. Rajasthan levies the highest VAT on petrol and diesel in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Fuel retail rates in India largely comprises central and state taxes, accounting for 60 per cent of the selling prices.

GO GREEN

Incentives under Fame-II to boost EV sales: Experts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE government's decision to increase incentive on electric two-wheelers (e2W) by 50 per cent (under Fame II scheme) will be a game changer for the sector, say EV makers. The industry believes that EV sales are likely to soar in coming years even as its current share in overall vehicle sales in India is just about one per cent.

"The increase in the cap of subsidies for EVs will be a game changer driving consumers towards electric scooters even as petrol prices continue to breach the ₹100 mark," said Naveen Munjal, MD Hero Electric. Hero expects the market to touch 5-7 million units on road over the next 5 years.

Tarun Mehta, CEO and Co-founder Ather Energy, said that their sales have grown despite the pandemic and with this additional subsidy, they expect e-2Ws to disrupt the market, and clock 6 million units by 2025. "Ather Energy already has plans to expand distribution to 30 cities in the next six months and this increased subsidy will help accelerate consumer demand, immensely," he added.

According to Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles data, e2W sales fell six per cent in FY21 to 1,43,800 units. However, only 40,800 units were high-speed, the category which is eligible for incentives. The amendment in the scheme came after it was criticized for not providing enough support to lift India's EV industry. According to reports, only five per cent or around ₹500 crore of the allocated ₹10,000 crore fund has been utilised so far. Sales wise, only 58,613 e2Ws were sold under the scheme as against the target of selling 10 lakh units by March 2022.

By 2025, 2Ws are expected to achieve 8-10 per cent penetration in the overall market.

India's forex reserves at record high, but is it worth to hold a high number?

SUNITHA NATTI

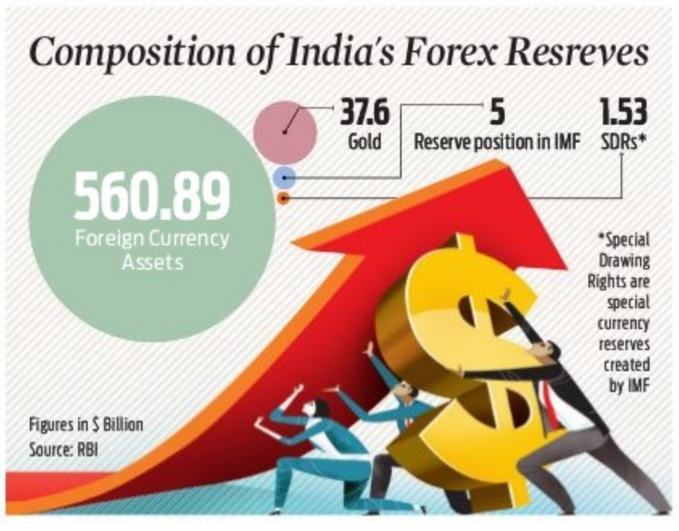
INDIA'S foreign exchange reserves touched an all-time high of $605 billion last week. It means, we can now comfortably pay off our entire external debt of $563.5 billion as on December, 2020 and still be left with spare change.

From the 1991 balance of payment crisis that caused 'a threat of national humiliation,' the 30-year journey from 'agony to comfort' is indeed a matter of pride. But why hold forex reserves? And does a higher number bring more prosperity?

Forex reserves are external assets readily available to the RBI to tide over any external shocks. Foremost among them is shielding currency from volatility. The RBI Act clearly states that a stable exchange rate forms the overall objective of its forex reserve management policy. But it also has an understated objective to support monetary policy by ensuring liquidity in the forex market.

Besides, it limits external vulnerability by maintaining foreign currency liquidity to absorb shocks during crises like the 2013 taper tantrum event, provides confidence to markets especially credit rating agencies as external obligations can easily and always be met. This is critical as it helps reduce costs and importantly, emboldens the sovereign towards overseas borrowing.

Until the 1991 balance of payment crisis, reserve management was essentially based on the traditional trade-based approach of calculating import cover, which shrank to a deplorable 3 weeks in December, 1990. As of December 2020, our import cover shot up to 18.6 months. However, it has undergone a paradigm shift and the adequacy of reserves are now determined based on three other indicators.



First up is a money-based indicator that hints at potential resident-based capital flight. Based on this, the proportion of net forex assets to currency with the public sharply increased from a dismal 15% in 1991 to 157% as on May, 21. Likewise, its proportion to broad money (M3) jumped from 3% to 23.8%. Should there be a capital flight in the event interest rates rise in developed markets, any consequent volatility can be tackled by injecting rupee liquidity via dollar sales.

Next, debt-based indicators gauge risks associated with adverse developments in internal capital markets. Since short-term debt provides a measure of all debt repayments to non-residents, it's a useful measure of how quickly a country would be forced to adjust during capital market distortions. It's the important indicator of reserve adequacy in countries with significant but uncertain access to capital markets.

Here's where we stand: The proportion of short-term debt (with maturity up to one year) to forex reserves declined from 147% in 1991 to 17.7% as of December, 2020. Lower percentage indicates fewer debt obligations and hence good. Similarly, the proportion of volatile capital flows (including cumulative portfolio inflows and short-term debt) to reserves too reduced from 147% in 1991 to 67% as on December, 2020.

Forex reserves are made up of all but three items — gold, SDRs and foreign currency assets. As on June 4, of the $605 billion total forex reserves, foreign currency assets accounted for about 93% at $560 billion. On last count, over 67% of this is invested in securities (comprising US dollar, euro, pound sterling and Japanese yen). Most of the securities are considered liquid as RBI makes money via sale-purchase transactions, though this income isn't attractive given the ultra-cheap rates.

The critical issue is whether other external assets are readily available for use. Particularly gold, which comprises 6.2% of official reserves, the quality is not in a form that is readily accepted in international financial markets, according to former RBI Governor Y V Reddy. That said, he reasoned that India had devised a mechanism by which a part of the gold holdings could be converted into usable foreign currency.

Olympic 400m champ Horton fails to make Tokyo cut

Olympic 400 metre champion Mack Horton will not be defending his title in Tokyo after failing to qualify at the Australian trials Saturday, stunned by Elijah Winnington who swam the world's fastest time this year. The 25-year-old's 3mins 43.92secs wasn't enough despite being one of the quickest globally in the last 12 months.

Denmark players surround Christian Eriksen after he collapses on the field during their tie against Finland on Saturday | AP

Denmark's Eriksen collapses on pitch

AGENCIES @ Copenhagen

DENMARK star Christian Eriksen collapsed on the pitch in Saturday's Euro 2020 game against Finland in Copenhagen, causing the suspension of the match in the first half.

UEFA later said he has 'stabilised' and was in hospital. The match too resumed after consulting both the teams.

Danish players were in tears as medical staff tried to revive the Inter Milan player, who suddenly collapsed near the touchline. "The UEFA EURO 2020 match in Copenhagen has been suspended due to a medical emergency," UEFA said in a statement. The previously raucous crowd at the Parken Stadium in the Danish capital fell silent after the 29-year-old fell to the ground near the end of the opening period, with his teammates gathering around him. After around 15 minutes Eriksen was stretchered off the field followed by the rest of the Denmark team, while Finland's players also left the pitch.The fans in the stadium sat silently in their seats waiting for news of Eriksen's condition.

Italy beat Turkey

PARIS: ITALY capped a perfect night in the Stadio Olimpico with a Euro 2020 opening win over Turkey but coach Roberto Mancini warned that the road was long between Rome and Wembley. A 28-match unbeaten run has put Mancini two games short of Italy's two-time world Cup winning coach Vittorio Pozzo's record of 30 unbeaten games between 1935 and 1939. In another match, Switzerland and Wales played out a 1-1 draw.

RESULTS

Friday: Turkey 0-3 Italy.

Saturday: Switzerland 1-1 Wales.

TODAY'S MATCHES

England vs Croatia, 6:30 pm, Austria vs N Macedonia, 9:30 pm, Netherlands vs Ukraine 12.30 am

Live on Sony Network

SET APART FROM THE REST

Djokovic & Nadal's semifinal may go down as one of the best battles

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN

AS the clock struck 12.30 am IST on Saturday morning, Rome was a reminder of the pre-coronavirus world. Fans in the stands of the Stadio Olympico watched on as the European Championships started. In a normal world, the beginning of a major football event is compulsory TV, especially a symbolic tournament beginning in a country that first felt the effects of the virus. But not on this Saturday morning.

Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic had won one set apiece on the dirt in Paris, the Spaniard's kingdom, just as the clock moved past 12.30. The match already had the makings of a micro epic — the Serb was beginning to ask uncomfortable questions and the 13-time French Open winner was, by his standards, struggling. It was a gripping contest because we were watching an athlete move Nadal on a surface he has seldom been challenged ever. So while Italy pushed and prodded Turkey, Nadal and Djokovic took to creating unreal geometry on Court Philippe Chatrier in front of 5000 spectators.

What followed over the next 93 minutes — it will surely go down as one of the greatest sets ever played in the history of the French Open — will take time to digest. It was so intense, you frequently wanted to reach for the remote to press the pause button to breathe a little. Both of them moved each other from tramline to tramline and from net to baseline. Each point had a narrative around, each serve had some stakes and every error and winner felt terminal. You can argue that the match and, perhaps, the ultimate future of the GOAT debate, was decided by two mistakes from the racquet of Nadal. "These kind of mistakes can happen," reflected Nadal after the match. He was reflecting on two missed opportunities, both during the tie-breaker (the first was a double fault and the second was an ugly shank when it was harder to miss). It's what makes Djokovic a great player. He not only hits winners but induces errors from even the greatest of players after cranking up the pressure. And one set apiece had become Djokovic 2, Nadal 1. It was so good the authorities even decided to not enforce Covid related curfew in the stadium for a night (the crowd were singing 'we are not going to leave' anyway).

Once Djokovic pocketed that set, he moved into apex predator mode — it helped that Nadal's level visibly dropped at the end. Even if the tennis fraternity doesn't celebrate the World No 1 enough for his on-court achievements, he's now one match away (no pressure Stefanos Tsitsipas) from winning a 19th Major title.

Rome is famous for its Colosseum where mythical gladiatorial conquests decorate the pages of history. Yet, for a few hours, two men put their bodies on the line to transport Paris, and Court Philippe Chatrier, into the ultimate gladiatorial arena.

FINAL TOUCH

Djokovic will be seeking his 19th Major title in the final. He will face Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas. Here's a look at the finalists...

HEAD-TO-HEAD

NOVAK DJOKOVIC **5-2** STEFANOS TSITSIPAS

DJOKOVIC LEADS

LAST MEETING 2021 Rome | Clay | QF | Djokovic won 4-6, 7-5, 7-5

SEEKING MAJOR BOOST

Victory for the Serb will take him alongside Roy Emerson and Rod Laver as the only men to capture the four Majors more than once. It's an achievement that has proved even beyond the capabilities of Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. It is so rare an accomplishment that it hasn't happened since 1969 when Laver completed his second calendar Grand Slam.

FIRST SLAM FINAL

Tsitsipas, 22, and 12 years younger than Djokovic, is in his first Slam final having ended a run of three semifinal losses by defeating Alexander Zverev over five sets on Friday. Victory on Sunday would allow him to become the first Greek player to win a Slam title. He would also become the youngest champion in Paris since Nadal in 2008.

05 At last year's Roland Garros, Djokovic won their semifinal contest over five sets.

Live on Star Sports Network @ 6.30 pm

MAJOR GLORY FOR UNSEEDED KREJCIKOVA

PARIS: Barbora Krejcikova won her maiden Grand Slam singles title at the French Open on Saturday, defeating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova to become the first Czech woman in 40 years to conquer Roland Garros. Ranked 33 and playing just her fifth main draw in a Slams singles event, she won 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 for a second career title. She emulates compatriot Hana Mandlikova who won the trophy in Paris in 1981. Krejcikova paid tribute to her late coach Jana Novotna after winning the crown.

Ready for kick-off amid virus fears

WAIT, THERE IS GOING TO BE A COPA AMERICA?

Yes, it all begins in Brasilia in less than 24 hours (2.30 am IST on Monday morning to be precise), with the hosts playing Venezuela. It was originally supposed to be co-hosted by Argentina and Colombia in 2020 but was pushed back by a year because of the pandemic.

OKAY, WHY AREN'T ARGENTINA AND COLOMBIA HOSTING IT?

The situation in Colombia is tense with protests against president Ivan Duque Marquez. So the South American football federation moved it from Colombia. Days later, an ongoing wave in Argentina meant they also couldn't host it. CONMEBOL were looking around for countries who could host it and Brazil helped them.

BUT ISN'T THERE AN ONGOING COVID WAVE IN BRAZIL?

Yes, there is. And this has proved to be a deeply unpopular decision. There were even reports that the Brazil football team themselves were planning to boycott the tournament. However, that hasn't happened.

WHAT ABOUT CROWDS?

Thankfully, no. All matches including the final at Maracana will be played behind closed doors.

IS MESSI PLAYING? WHO ARE THE CONTENDERS?

Yes, Lionel Messi is playing. In fact, if reports out of Argentina are true, the team will set up base in Argentina and only fly to venues on the day of the match. As far as contenders go, it's hard to look beyond Brazil, even if there is a clear divide between the team and the government right now.

GROUP A: ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, URUGUAY, CHILE, PARAGUAY. **GROUP B:** BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, ECUADOR, PERU. **LIVE ON SONY SPORTS**

CRICKET

Pant, Shubman shine in intra-squad game

SOUTHAMPTON: The flamboyant Rishabh Pant took his senior bowling colleagues to the cleaners with an unbeaten century while opener Shubman Gill also warmed up with a polished 85 during the Indian team's intra-squad match simulation over the last two days. The two teams are being led by Virat Kohli and KL Rahul with all the first team batsmen packed in one side and the regular bowlers on the other, with reserves like Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha and Hanuma Vihari. Pant, who has been in the form of his life, hammered every bowler including the spinners in his unbeaten 121 off 94 balls. Opening the batting with Rohit Sharma, Gill scored 85 off 135 balls. PTI

EXPRESS READ

Moosa inks new three year deal with Bengaluru FC

BENGALURU: Bengaluru FC announced Naushad Moosa has penned a fresh three-year deal keeping him at the club until the end of the 2023-24 season. Moosa, who has been at the helm of the Blues' Youth Development Programme along with being part of the coaching staff with the senior team, will now exclusively be assistant coach to Marco Pezzaiuoli. "I'm really glad to commit my future to Bengaluru FC for three more years," he said. "Last season I had the opportunity of leading senior team as interim coach and I don't think I've learned as much in five years as I have in those five months."

Shakib banned for 4 DPL games: Reports

DHAKA: Shakib Al Hasan has been handed a four-match suspension from Dhaka T20 Premier League, following his on-field meltdown during a match between Mohammedan Sporting and Abahani Limited. According to *'BDCrictime'*, "Mohammedan Sporting Club captain Shakib has been banned for four matches due to his arrogant behaviour."

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Post Bag no. 1. Yelwal, Mysuru 571 130

Telephone:0821-2406477 | Fax:0821-2403064 Date:9/06/2021

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

On line item rate tender in two parts i.e Part-A techno-commercial cum pre qualification bid and Part-Bfinancial bid are hereby invited through e-tendering mode on behalf of The President of India by The Superintending Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore for the following work from the eligible contractor having adequate experience and capabilities in similar work.

Tender Reference No.	**BARC/AMD/MMS/DK/21/01**
Name of work	Surface preparation, component cleaning assembly and allied works atBARC, Mysuru
Estimated Cost	₹ .**12,50,000/-** (Rupees twelve lakh fifty thousand only)
Period of Completion	**18 Calendar month**
Earnest Money Deposit	Nil, Bid security declaration may please be provided as per the format
Security Deposit	2.5% of tendered value
Performance Guarantee	3.0% of tendered value
Tender Sale Period	From **14/06/2021 (11.00 hrs)** To **23/06/2021 (16.00 hrs)**
Due date & Time for online submission of tender	**02/07/2021 at 15.00 hrs**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details which can be down loaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/dae** Sd/-

Superintending Engineer, BARC
For & on behalf of the President of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION

E-TENDER

TENDER NOTICE NO.DCE-CN-CLT-OT-01-2021 Dt. 11.06.2021 & DCE-CN-CLT-OT-02-2021 Dt. 11.06.2021

The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Opposite Railway Station, Southern Railway, Kozhikode - 673 001 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderers/contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and **only online tenders will be accepted.** The cost of tender form and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) should be made online payment gateway in the web site by the way of multiple bank's net-banking, debit card and credit card.

1) DCE-CN-CLT-OT-01-2021 Dt. 11.06.2021

Doubling of track between Netravathi and Mangalore Central - Proposed maintenance of newly commissioned track and connected works between Netravathi (incl) and Mangalore Central (incl).

Item No.1; Approximate Cash Value in Rupees : 2412800.00

Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : 0.00; **Cost of Tender form (Rupees) :** 0.00;

Period of Completion in Month(s) : 6;

Closing/Opening date @ 11.00 hrs : 09.07.2021

2) DCE-CN-CLT-OT-02-2021 Dt. 11.06.2021

Doubling of track between Mangalore Junction - Panambur - Proposed house keeping, hospitality services and directional works in the Deputy Chief Engineer's office at Mangaluru, officer's rest house/Construction, Mangaluru and premises of two years.

Item No.1; Approximate Cash Value in Rupees : 1521132.00

Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : 0.00; **Cost of Tender form (Rupees) :** 0.00;

Period of Completion in Month(s) : 24;

Closing/Opening date @ 11.00 hrs : 09.07.2021

GST : It may please be noted that the supplier for goods and/or Services for the tender/agreement, would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time.

For other details, please refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Opposite to Railway Station, Southern Railway, Kozhikode - 673 001.

Deputy Engineer (Construction),
Southern Railway, Kozhikode.

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ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

DMA/2020-21/WORK INDENT NO. 116985, 117015 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10.06.2021

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

E-PROCUREMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು **ಮಹಾತ್ಮಗಾಂಧಿ ನಗರ ವಿಕಾಸ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (2019–2024)** ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು **ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಮೂಲಕ** ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.07.2021 ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ 08.07.2021 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ.** ಆರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿರಿಸಿದ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	I) ಮ.ನ.ಪಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿ.ನಂ.49ನೇ ಬಜಾಲ್ ಚರ್ಚ್‌ನಿಂದ ಕುತ್ತಡ್ಕ ರೈಸ್ ಮಿಲ್‌ತನಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, 2) ವಿ.ನಂ.50ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಪಡೀಲ್ ಬಜಾಲ್ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಕೆಳ ಸೇತುವೆಯಿಂದ ಮಹಾದೇವಿ ಭಜನ ಮಂದಿರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮಹಾದೇವಿ ಭಜನಾ ಮಂದಿರದಿಂದ ಜಲ್ಲಿಗುಡ್ಡೆ ಕ್ರಾಸ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ 3) ವಿ.ನಂ.55ನೇ 6ನೇ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್ ಸ್ಕೂಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, 4) ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.53ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಜಲ್ಲಿಗುಡ್ಡೆ ಸಾಯಿ ಜನರಲ್ ಸ್ಟೋರ್ಸ್ ಬದಿಯಿಂದ ಮೈರಗುತ್ತು ದರ್ಗಾ ಜಾರದ ಬಳಿ ತನಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ **(Indent No.116985)**	**374.99**
2	I) ಮ.ನ.ಪಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.32ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಪದವು ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲ್ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ನಿಂದ ಶರಬತ್ತು ಕಟ್ಟೆ ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ಭಾಗ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, 2) ವಿ.ನಂ.60ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ತೋಟಬೆಂಗ್ರೆಯ ಬಬ್ಬರ್ಯ ದೈವಸ್ಥಾನದಿಂದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಬೀಚ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟೀಕರಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗ್ರೆಯ ಯಮುನಾ ಪುತ್ರನ್ ಬೋಕ್ಕಪಟ್ಟಣ ಇವರ ಮನೆ ಬಳಿಯಿಂದ ತಾರಾನಾಥ ಪೂಜಾರಿ ಕುದ್ರೋಳಿ ಬೆಂಗ್ರೆ ಮನೆಯ ತನಕ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, 3) ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.37ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಜಯನಗರ 2ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯ 1ರಿಂದ 4ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ 1 ಮತ್ತು 2ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಮಧ್ಯ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿರು ಸೇತುವೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ 4) ವಿ.ನಂ.22ರ ಪದವು ಮೇರಿಹಿಲ್ ಕೋರ್ಡಬ್ಬು ದ್ವಾರದಿಂದ ಗುರುನಗರ ದಿ.ದೇವಪ್ಪ ಮೇಸ್ತ್ರಿ ಮನೆ ನಂ.2–158 ಬಳಿ ಗುರುಮಂದಿರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕಮಲಾಕ್ಷ ಬಂಗೇರ ಮನೆ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ದೇವಗಿರಿ ಚಾ ಹುಡಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕ್ಟರಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ **(Indent No.117015)**	**418.99**

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಧಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, RAICHUR

Phone no: 08532 226020 Email: dhoraichur@gmail.com

DHFWS/RCR/KKRDB/ DEVLP/08/2021-22 DATE: 10.06.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

FOR SUPPLY OF 32 SLICE CT SCAN MACHINE FOR VARIOUS HEALTH FACILITIES IN RAICHUR UNDER HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT (KKRDB)

Hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from officially registered, eligible suppliers/ Non-Governmental Organization who is registered under law, For Supply of ALS Ambulance for various health facilities in Raichur under Health and Family Welfare Department (KKRDB) as described in the schedule of requirements.

1) Tender Reference No. : **Tender No: DHFWS/RCR/KKRDB/ DEVLP/08/2021-22,** 2) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from e-Procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in : **From 10.06.2021 TO 28.06.2021,** 3) Last Date Queries : **23.06.2021 up to 5:00 PM,** 4) Pre-Bid meeting date : **Dated: 25.06.2021 @ 12.00 Noon by ZOOM Meeting.** Who are all interested to participate in Pre-Bid meeting, send a requisition mail to dhoraichur@gmail.com before 5.00pm 24/06/2021, so that zoom meeting ID is shared, 5) Last Date and Time for uploading of Tender in e-Procurement portal : **26.06.2021 up to 5:00 PM,** 6) Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids : **28.06.2021 @ 5.30 PM,** 7) Date and Time of Online Opening of Financial Bids : **30.06.2021 @ 11.00 AM,** 8) AMOUNT & EMD DETAILS : **Rs. 800.00 LAKHS & NIL respectively,** 9) Address for Communication : The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, RAICHUR, Phone: +91 9480417161/ 8618273644, Tel No.:08532-226020 Email: dhoraichur@gmail.com

Interested eligible suppliers or manufacturers those who are registered in portal bidders can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

DIP/Raichur/116/MC&A/2021-22

SD/- DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE OFFICER, RAICHUR

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE OFFICE, RAICHUR

Phone no: 08532 226020 Email: dhoraichur@gmail.com

DHFWS/RCR/KKRDB/ DEVLP/11/2021-22 DATE: 10.06.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

FOR SUPPLY OF ALS AMBULANCE FOR VARIOUS HEALTH FACILITIES IN RAICHUR UNDER HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT (KKRDB)

Hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from officially registered, eligible suppliers/ Non-Governmental Organization who is registered under law, For Supply of BLS Ambulance for various health facilities in Raichur under Health and Family Welfare Department (KKRDB) as described in the schedule of requirements.

1) Tender Reference No. : **Tender No: DHFWS/RCR/KKRDB/ DEVLP/11/2021-22,** 2) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from e-Procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in : **From 10.06.2021 TO 28.06.2021,** 3) Last Date Queries : **23.06.2021 up to 5:00 PM,** 4) Pre-Bid meeting date : **Dated: 25.06.2021 @ 12.00 Noon by ZOOM Meeting.** Who are all interested to participate in Pre-Bid meeting, send a requisition mail to dhoraichur@gmail.com before 5.00pm 24/06/2021, so that zoom meeting ID is shared, 5) Last Date and Time for uploading of Tender in e-Procurement portal : **26.06.2021 up to 5:00 PM,** 6) Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids : **28.06.2021 @ 5.30 PM,** 7) Date and Time of Online Opening of Financial Bids : **30.06.2021 @ 11.00 AM,** 8) AMOUNT & EMD DETAILS : **Rs. 180.00 LAKHS & NIL respectively,** 9) Address for Communication : The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, RAICHUR, Phone: +91 9480417161/ 8618273644, Tel No.:08532-226020, Email: dhoraichur@gmail.com

Interested eligible suppliers or manufacturers those who are registered in portal bidders can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

DIP/Raichur/119/MC&A/2021-22

SD/- DISTRICT HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE OFFICER, RAICHUR

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

(Public Works Department)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION:YADGIR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2021-22/ 290 Dated: 09-06-2021

:: Short Term e-Tender Notification ::

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTTP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Karnataka Public Works Department invites item Rate Tender by Two Cover System Through e-Procurement Portal from Eligible Agency/Contractors for Construction of Primary, Pre-Primary and Hjgher Primary Karnataka Public School at Rangamet, Surpur, Yadgiri District. (KPWD/2020-21/BD/WORK_INDENT136933) Amount Put to Tender Rs. 173,87,724.57 EMD Exempted (As Per Govt FD 675 Exptr/2020, Bengaluru, Dated:22.12.2020), Stipulated Period for completion of work 11 (Eleven) Months (Including Mansoon), Tender Processing as per e- Procurement Portal. Tender Documents can be obtained from Karnataka e-procurtement portal from 10-06-2021 onwards. For More Details Contact the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD, Division, Yadgir during office hours OR log on Website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in OR e-procurement help desk 080-25501216/ 25501227.

NOTE-1)The successful Tenderer must Deliver Security Deposit Amount equivalent to 5% of contract price in the form of FDR/TDR/Bank Guarrantee:plus additional security for unbalanced tender as per GO No./PWD/289/CRM/2013,Bangalore. Dtd.13-11-2013, 2)Turn-Over Certificate Without UDIN Number will not be considered AND 3) Rates are excluding GST & GST amount will be paid separately on contact amount during the payment Calender of Events

1) Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting : **19-06-2021 11.30 Hrs.,** 2) Date & Time for receipt of queries : **23-06-2021 17.30 Hrs.,** 3) Last Date & Time for submission of the tender in e-procurement portal : **26-06-2021 16.00 Hrs.,** 4) Date & Time of Opening of the Technical Bid : **28-06-2021 11.30 Hrs.** 5) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid : **30-06-2021 11.30 Hrs.**

DIP/Yadgiri/59/MC&A/2021-22

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Division:Yadgir.

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EXFILE • ASTRONOMY

Focus turns back to Venus, Earth's evil twin

Venus is hotter than ever, with a third new robotic explorer on the horizon. A week after NASA announced two new missions to our closest neighbour, the European Space Agency said recently it will launch a Venus-orbiting spacecraft in the early 2030s. We explain the renewed interest in our sister planet

HAT TRICK

This week, three missions were announced: Two from the US and one from the European Union

Named EnVision, the European orbiter will attempt to explain why Venus is so "wildly different" from Earth, even though the two planets are similar in size and composition

NASA's own pair of upcoming missions to our solar system's hottest planet — called DAVINCI+ and VERITAS — will be the first for the U.S. in more than 30 years. They'll blast off sometime around

2028 TO 2030

Below, an artist's impression of an active volcano on Venus | ESA, AOES via Venus Express mission

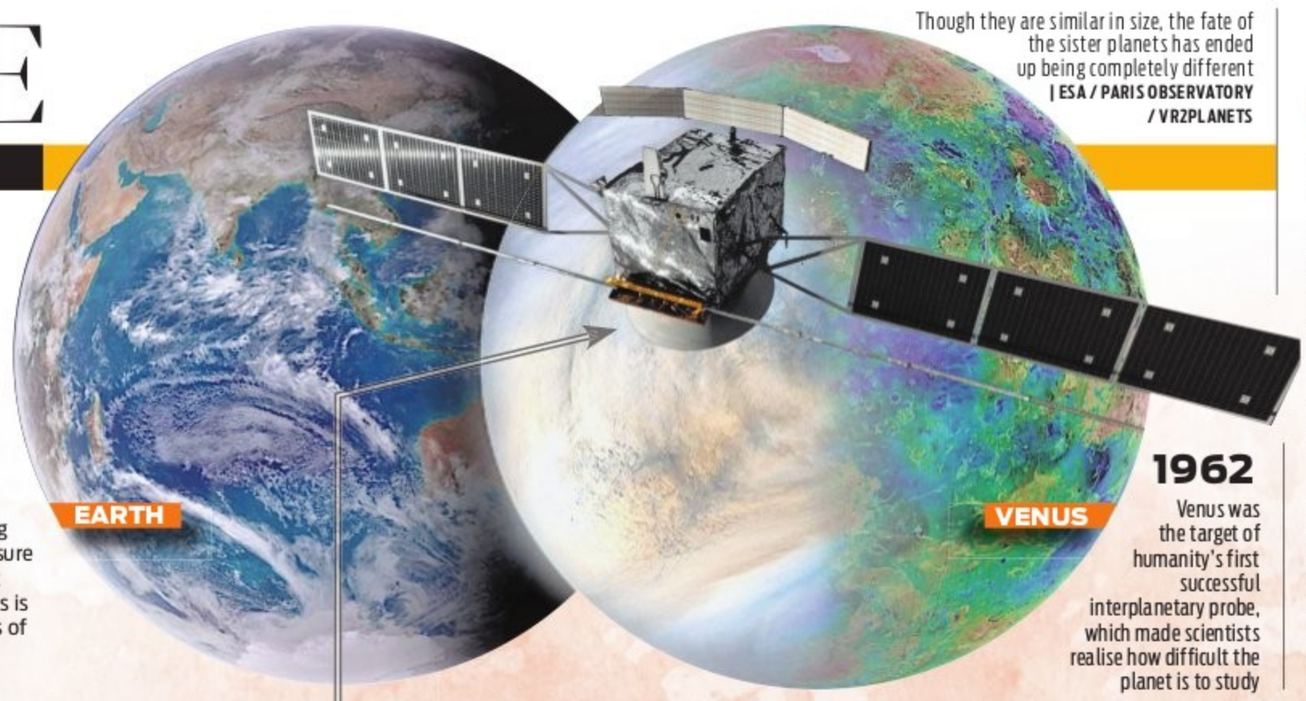
A VISION OF HELL

Venus's surface is extremely hot, reaching more than 400°C. The atmospheric pressure is so heavy that it has the force of a Hulk crushing heavy machinery. In short, Venus is deadly. The planet also has gigantic seas of frozen lava

MISSION OBJECTIVES

VERITAS will study the surface with radar, scanning for geological activity; DAVINCI+ will measure the atmosphere to find answers to how the planet formed and evolved

DAVINCI+ could perhaps finally resolve the controversy of past year's research that found evidence for phosphine in Venus' atmosphere, which could indicate that life exists on the planet



Though they are similar in size, the fate of the sister planets has ended up being completely different | ESA / PARIS OBSERVATORY / VR2PLANETS

RENEWED ATTENTION

Astronomers have sent missions that have studied Mercury, Jupiter and Mars, but Venus has been left out in recent decades

Though scientifc interest has been strong, space agencies have not been intent on returning to the planet

WHY THIS FUSS OVER VENUS?

Despite its similarity to Earth, it has been little explored, partly because Venus is a forbidding place: the thick carbon-dioxide atmosphere is home to sulfuric acid clouds that blanket the whole planet

The planet is crucial for knowing the past and the future of Earth. Scientists think that Venus was once like Earth, hosting oceans of water for billions of years. But a "runaway greenhouse" effect — due to the proximity to the Sun — overheated the planet, burned away its water and made the surface a sweltering wasteland

Another theory is that the greenhouse effect was not due to the Sun, but due to the plant's over-active volcanos. Paul Bryne, a planetary scientist, wrote in *The Washington Post* that very frequent eruptions may have pumped enough CO2 into the atmosphere to override "the planet's ability to regulate its climate, putting it on a path to catastrophe"

INDIA'S ORBITER

The ISRO had said in the past it will send a probe to Venus in **2023** to study its conditions

THE DECADE OF VENUS?

Nearly every space agency in the world is planning a data-finding mission to the planet. Russia's Roscosmos is working with the US on a daring mission to land a spacecraft on Venus. Scientists think Venus may have been the first habitable planet in the Solar System

1962

Venus was the target of humanity's first successful interplanetary probe, which made scientists realise how difficult the planet is to study

Ice shelf of critical glacier breaking up faster

Pine Island contributes more to sea level rise than other Antarctic glaciers & the ice protecting it is tearing itself apart

ENVIRONMENT

A critical Antarctic glacier is looking more vulnerable as satellite images show the ice shelf that blocks it from collapsing into the sea is breaking up much faster than before and spawning huge icebergs, a new study says.

The Pine Island Glacier's ice shelf loss accelerated in 2017, causing scientists to worry that with climate change the glacier's collapse could happen quicker than the many centuries predicted. The floating ice shelf acts like a cork in a bottle for the fast-melting glacier and prevents its much larger ice mass from flowing into the ocean.

That ice shelf has retreated by 12 miles (20 kilometers) between 2017 and 2020, according to a study in Friday's Science Advances The crumbling shelf was caught on time-lapse video from a European satellite that takes pictures every six days.

"You can see stuff just tearing apart," said study lead author Ian Joughin, a University of Washington glaciologist. "So it almost looks like the speed-up itself is weakening the glacier. ... And so far we've lost maybe 20% of the main shelf."

Between 2017 and 2020, there were three large breakup events, creating icebergs more than 5 miles (8 kilometers) long and 22 miles (36 kilometers) wide, which then split into lots of littler pieces, Joughin said. There also were many smaller breakups.

The area near the grounding line of the Pine Island Glacier along its west side in Antarctica | IAN JOUGHIN VIA AP

"It's not at all inconceivable that the whole shelf could give way and go within a few years," Joughin said. "I'd say that's a long shot, but not a very long shot."

Joughin tracked two points on the main glacier and found they were moving 12% faster toward the sea starting in 2017. "So that means 12% more ice from Pine Island going into the ocean that wasn't there before," he said.

The Pine Island Glacier, which is not on an island doesn't have pine trees, is one of two side-by-side glaciers in western Antarctica that ice scientists worry most about losing on that continent. The other is the Thwaites Glacier.

Pine Island contains 180 trillion tons of ice — the equivalent of 1.6 feet (half a meter) of sea level rise — and is responsible for about a quarter of the continent's ice loss.

"Pine Island and Thwaites are our biggest worry now because they are falling apart and then the rest of West Antarctica will follow according to nearly all models," said University of California Irvine ice scientist Isabella Velicogna, who wasn't part of the study.

While ice loss is part of climate change, there was no unusual extra warming in the region that triggered this acceleration, Joughin said.

"These science results continue to highlight the vulnerability of Antarctica, a major reservoir for potential sea level rise," said Twila Moon, a National Snow and Ice Data scientist who wasn't part of the research. "Again and again, other research has confirmed how Antarctica evolves in the future will depend on human greenhouse gas emissions."

Can we store entire world's digital data in one cup of DNA?

RESEARCH

AS the world produces humongous amount of data -- there is now about 10 trillion gigabytes of digital data on earth -- scientists have shown that a technique for labelling and retrieving DNA data files from a large pool could help make DNA data storage feasible in the near future.

Every day, humans produce emails, photos, tweets and other digital files that add up to 2.5 million GB of data.

Much of this data is stored in enormous facilities known as exabyte data centres (an exabyte is 1 billion gigabytes), which can be the size of several football fields and cost around $1 billion to build and maintain.

Many scientists believe that an alternative solution lies in the molecule that contains our genetic information: DNA, which evolved to store massive quantities of information at very high density. A coffee mug full of DNA could theoretically store all of the world's data, says Mark Bathe, a professor of biological engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). "We need new solutions for storing these massive amounts of data that the world is accumulating, especially the archival data," Bathe said in a paper in *Nature Materials*.

AFTER HARVEST

Farm workers spread rice grains on a field for drying in the Nadia district in West Bengal on Saturday | PTI

COVID-19 MAY CAUSE HEARING DISORDERS

HEALTH

NEW YORK: After loss of taste, respiratory distress, researchers have found evidence that Covid-19 also leads to hearing and balance disorders, as well as aggravating tinnitus symptoms. The factors that may play a role in the relationship between Covid-19 and hearing are multifold. Covid-19 is known to have inflammatory effects, including in neurological tissue, which can exacerbate other problems, said Colleen Le Prell, from the University of Texas at Dallas. "Inflammation can damage the auditory and vestibular pathways in the peripheral and central nervous system, just as it damages smell and taste pathways, and other neural systems," Le Prell said.

"Increases in tinnitus bothersomeness were associated with reports of pandemic-related loneliness, sleep troubles, anxiety, depression, irritability, and financial worries," Le Prell said. Prell presented the study during the 180th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Museum of illusions

TECHNOLOGY

Seeing your own head on a platter or posing for a photo while walking on the ceiling -- absurd images served up by a Croatian museum that has gone global. "It's something different, it makes you use your brain but it's also fun," says Roko Zivkovic, who set up the original Museum of Illusions with one of his friends in Zagreb in 2015. Inspired by a science TV show called *Brain Games*, they wanted to create a place where visitors could be entertained while stimulating their grey cells -- and now they have licensed franchises from New York to Kuala Lumpur. The museum displays dozens of optical illusions, including the visitor favourites "Head on a Platter", the "Ames room", which has an Alice In Wonderland effect on the size of the people in it, and the anti-gravity room. French student Yousfi Mezyan, 22, says he appreciated that the exhibits "make you think a bit".

Meet these space pups

SCIENCE

Turns out the comic books were wrong. Japanese researchers found mouse sperm exposed to high levels of cosmic radiation for nearly six years produced a large brood of healthy, unremarkable "space pups." Their study, in *Science Advances*, noted no signs so far of Mousezillas or rodent Hulks. The sperm was stored in the International Space Station in freeze-dried form. Once brought back to Earth and rehydrated, it resulted in the birth of 168 young, free of genetic defects. Developmental biologist and lead author Teruhiko Wakayama said that there was little difference between mice fertilised by space sperm and sperm that had remained confined to our planet. "All pups had normal appearance," he said, and when researchers examined their genes "no abnormalities were found."

RISK OF OUTBREAKS

Sharp decrease in immunisation of kids

MEDICINE

NEW DELHI: Expressing concern over drastic drop of routine immunisation among children specially during the second wave of Covid-19, healthcare experts have warned that there may be a risk of the children contracting vaccine preventable diseases which may re-emerge as a potential challenge.As per officials, an estimated 20 lakh to 22 lakh children across the country, under the age of one, are targeted for vaccination under national programmes every month which translates into approximately 260 lakh children per year.

Healthcare workers have said that many parents are scared to bring their children for routine immunisation against diseases like DTP (diptheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis), pneumococcal, rotavirus and MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) in fear of catching COVID-19.

Sumit Gupta, paediatrician, Columbia Asia Hospital said vaccination may be delayed by a month or two, but compulsory vaccines must be administered as per schedule to build the right amount of immunity at the right time among the kids.

"Almost all vaccines, including both compulsory (DTP and MMR) and optional (mainly hepatitis A, typhoid and chicken pox) ,witnessed a drop during the lockdown periods in both the years. While we may delay the vaccination by a month or two, compulsory vaccines must be administered," he told PTI.

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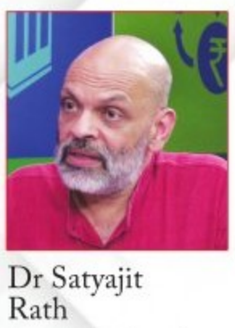
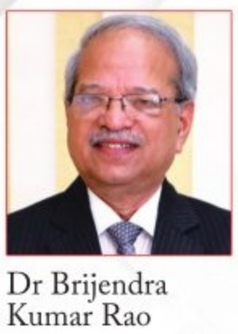

Dr Satyajit Rath
Immunologist and Researcher


Dr Brijendra Kumar Rao
Critical Care Specialist

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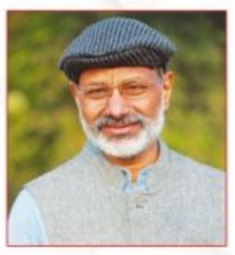
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